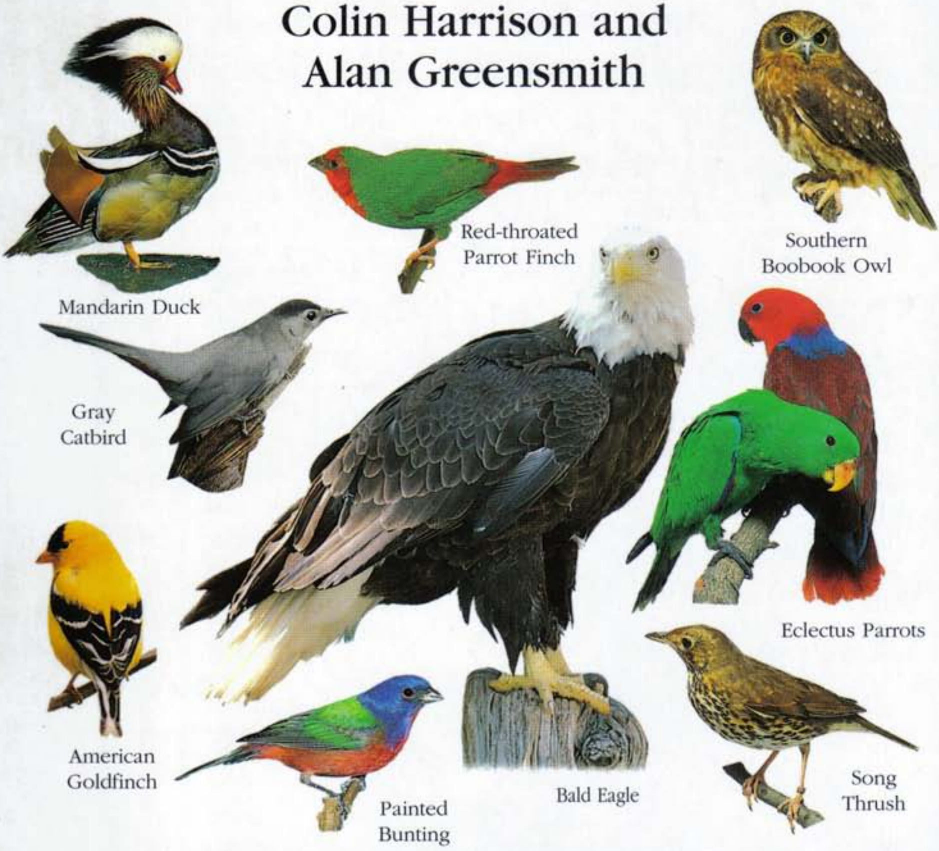
DORLING KINDERSLEY
— HANDBOOKS —

BIRDS OF THE WORLD

Colin Harrison and
Alan Greensmith


Mandarin Duck
Red-throated Parrot Finch
Southern Boobook Owl
Gray Catbird
Eclectus Parrots
American Goldfinch
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DORLING KINDERSLEY
—HANDBOOKS—

BIRDS
OF THE WORLD

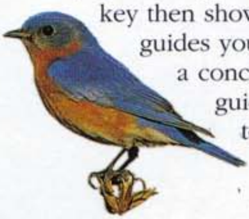
Authoritative text, crystal-clear photography, and a systematic approach make this the most comprehensive pocket guide to birds of the world. Featuring over 800 bird species, this volume is designed to simplify the sometimes complex identification process. Whether in your neighborhood or in the wild, the *Dorling Kindersley Handbook of Birds of the World* enables you to spot and recognize birds easily.

PHOTO-ENCYCLOPEDIC APPROACH

Each entry combines a precise description with an annotated photograph to highlight the bird's chief characteristics and distinguishing features. There are useful maps showing worldwide distribution, pictures of alternative plumage, and scale drawings of each bird. Color-coded, quick-reference bands giving at-a-glance facts complete every entry.

IDENTIFICATION MADE EASY

For beginners and established enthusiasts alike, the *Dorling Kindersley Handbook of Birds of the World* begins by describing anatomy and behavior to help identify different types of bird. A visual identification key then shows the major bird groups and guides you to the correct entries. Finally, a concise glossary provides a useful guide to the scientific and technical terms used in the book.



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COLIN HARRISON AND
ALAN GREENSMITH

MARK ROBBINS
Editorial Consultant

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PARIS and SYDNEY

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Note on Classification

The arrangement of bird families in this book is based on the recently published work of Richard Howard and Michael Moore. For the names of genera and species, the authors have drawn on the work of Charles G. Sibley and Burt Monroe.

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INTRODUCTION

Why have birds so captured the human imagination? Sixty million Americans watch birds. Some treat it as a quiet pastime, observing and perhaps photographing backyard species that frequent feeders and birdbaths. Others treat it as a sport, traveling widely in search of new species, or competing in "birdathons" to raise money for conservation organizations.

IN FACT, THE MONEY spent on watching birds (on equipment, travel, books, and art) is staggering. Surveys show that birding brings millions of dollars each year to places like Cape May in New Jersey, Point Pelee in Ontario, and southeastern Arizona. Birding in the USA alone is a $20 billion a year industry.

ibises use their curved bills to probe mud for food

broad wings enable the ibis to maneuver skillfully at low speeds

adjustable nose cone can be raised for streamlining at high speed

broad wings help provide lift during slower flight

STRENGTH VERSUS SKILL

Aircraft are vastly superior to birds in power, speed, and range, but birds are much more maneuverable. Birds, for instance, do not need a runway to take off or land.

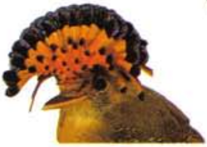
THE AGE OF THE QUILL

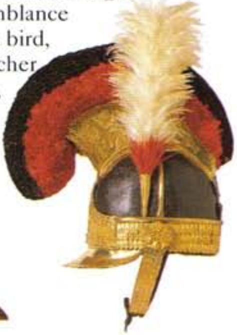
One indispensable contribution birds have made to our civilization was to provide quills (*right*) for writing. The central quill of a large feather, usually from a goose, was trimmed with a penknife and the point sharpened and split to form a nib. The hollow quill is ideally suited for holding the ink.

trimmed shaft of feather

ORNAMENTAL HEADGEAR

An ostrich provided the plume for this cavalry helmet (*below right*), while the whole design bears a striking resemblance to the head plumage of a bird, such as the Royal Flycatcher (*below*). In the flycatcher, however, the crest is aligned sideways, rather than front to back.





SYMBOLS OF HONOR AND WEALTH

GERMAN ARMY BADGE FROM WORLD WAR I

US ARMY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL AND CROSS

US ARMY CAP BADGE WITH EAGLE

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

SINGAPORE
$500

SINGAPORE $500 NOTE WITH SYMBOLIC GOLDEN ORIOLE

CANADIAN $1 COIN WITH COMMON LOON

TWENTY DOLLARS
SPECIMEN
RESERVE BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND $20 NOTE WITH NEW ZEALAND PIGEON

BIRDS IN MANY CULTURES

For many cultures, birds are an integral part of the social fabric, playing a part in folklore, art, and religion. In South America, for example, feathers are an essential feature of ritual garments; they show membership and status in social groups and provide a sense of spiritual identity and protection.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUE

Birds also supply our most basic needs: food, tools, and clothing. Domesticated birds (and their eggs) are the basis of our poultry industry. We have used bird feathers for quill pens and fletched arrows and as insulation in goose-down coats and comforters. Birds have also catalyzed scientific discovery: their study has helped us to understand the physics of flight. The canary in the coal mine has a new equivalent – birds are indicators of the health of our environment. The decline of our migratory songbirds increased efforts to protect habitat in their breeding, stopover, and wintering areas.

BIRDKEEPING FOR PLEASURE

Many people keep birds as pets. Parrots, Cockatiels, and other unusual species provide bird lovers with colorful and vocal companionship at home. The ancient art of falconry remains popular, and falconers' knowledge of the rearing of birds of prey has assisted in the reintroduction of threatened and endangered species into natural habitats. Birds bring us wonder, mystery, and pleasure. In their limitless variety of color, song, and behavior, birds embody a magic that we may celebrate, but only they can possess.

Peregrine Falcon on the hand
leg leashes are known as "jesses"

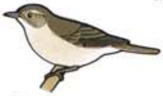
DAVID S. WIEDNER
Research Associate, Department of Ornithology, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

HOW THIS BOOK WORKS

THIS BOOK is arranged according to the major groups of birds: nonpasserines, which include the largest birds, and passerines, which include the songbirds. Each entry describes a separate species or kind of bird. The entries are arranged in order of their scientific classification. Birds that belong to the same family are grouped together. Within each family, closely related birds are placed near each other. Readers can find a bird by its habitat and behavior in the Identification Key on pages 18–37, or by its scientific or common name in the Index. Each entry covers appearance, habitat, food, nest, and distribution, thus giving the most basic identification features. In many entries, additional details, such as song, calls, or behavior, are provided.

PLUMAGE ILLUSTRATIONS

Except when stated otherwise, the photograph in each entry shows the adult male. Many birds also have other plumages (*see pp. 12–13*), and the most important of these are illustrated beside the photograph.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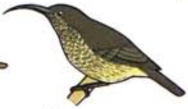
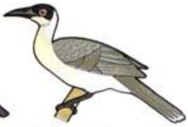
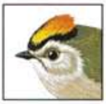
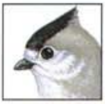

FEMALE


JUVENILE


MALE CREST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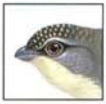
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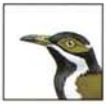
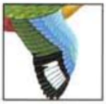
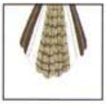
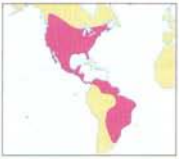

JUVENILE

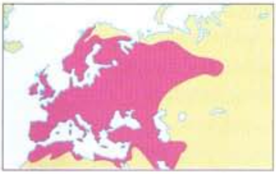

WING PATCH

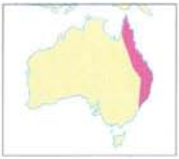

MALE TAIL

DISTRIBUTION MAPS

These show where the bird is likely to be seen, either all year round or at certain times. For example, Purple Martins breed in North America and winter in Brazil; the map also shows the area through which they migrate. By contrast, in the western part of their range, European Robins stay all year, but in the east they are migrants. The Australian Brush-Turkey is a non-migrant, remaining in the same area all year round.

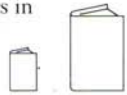

PURPLE MARTIN

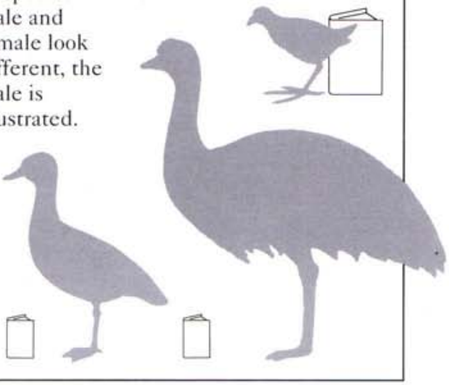

EUROPEAN ROBIN


BRUSH-TURKEY

SCALE SILHOUETTES

These show the bird next to a copy of this book. For reasons of space, birds above 20 in (50 cm) long are shown in a smaller scale, so that the book appears in two different sizes. All birds are measured fully stretched out, from beak to tail tip. In species in which male and female look different, the male is illustrated.





scientific ("Latin") name of family •

scientific name of species •

average length; if male and female lengths differ, • *both measurements are given, with the male length first*

Family ESTRILDIDAE | Species *Taeniopygia guttata* | Length 4½ in (12 cm)

usual • *common name of the species*

ZEBRA FINCH

So named because of its black-and-white, barred tail, this species lives in semidesert areas near water, feeding on seeds. It is seen in lively flocks which utter short, nasal notes.

DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A dome of grass with a side entrance, in a bush or hollow branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Indonesia and much of Australia.

• black-and-white tail
FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

plumage notes indicate any significant difference between male and female •

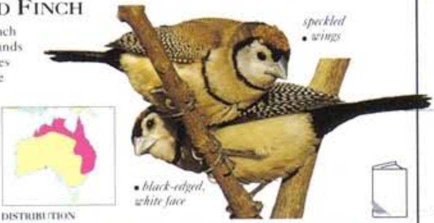
• *color illustrations show plumages that differ from the one shown in the photograph (see pp. 12–13)*

Family ESTRILDIDAE | Species *Taeniopygia bichenovii* | Length 4 in (10 cm)

DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH

This brownish gray little finch is identified by two black bands across its breast. Small parties feed in short grass or on bare ground, always close to cover, taking small seeds.

- **NEST** A horizontal, bottle-shaped nest made of dried grass, lined with finer grass, and placed in a small bush or in tall grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. and E. Australia.



Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

opening • *paragraph: appearance, habitat, and food are always described*

distribution • *notes give place names and details of migration*

main image is always a color • *photograph*

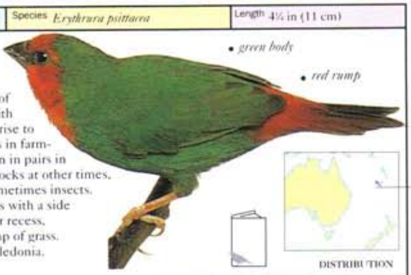
scale silhouette: the bird beside a copy of this • *book*

Family ESTRILDIDAE | Species *Erythrura psittacea* | Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

RED-THROATED PARROT FINCH

The red-and-green plumage of this finch can be compared with that of a parrot and has given rise to the name. This species occurs in farmland and open woodland. Seen in pairs in the breeding season, and in flocks at other times, it feeds on grass seeds and sometimes insects.

- **NEST** A round nest of grass with a side entrance, usually in a cavity or recess, or under an overhanging clump of grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Caledonia.



Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

nest data, giving details of structure, materials, and location •

photographs are selected to show the main identification • *features*

• *distribution map – this bird occurs on the island of New Caledonia*

states whether sexes are alike, look • *different, or are only slightly different*

habitat symbols, in order • *of importance; see key below*

• *whether migrant, non-migrant, partial migrant, or nomadic*

KEY TO HABITAT SYMBOLS

forest: coniferous, broadleaved, temperate, monsoon, or rain forest

open forest; more space between the trees

forest edge

grassland with scattered trees (includes farmland)

bushes, shrubs, thickets, and undergrowth

areas of scrub vegetation, frequently with thorns

open landscapes, including grassland, tundra, savanna, moorland, and heaths

semidesert

desert

lakes, rivers, and vicinity

upland streams and vicinity

open sea

rocky or sandy seashore

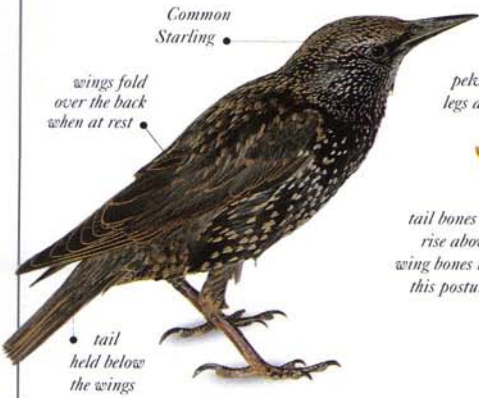
freshwater marshes and swamps

rocky places or cliffs (both on the coast and inland)

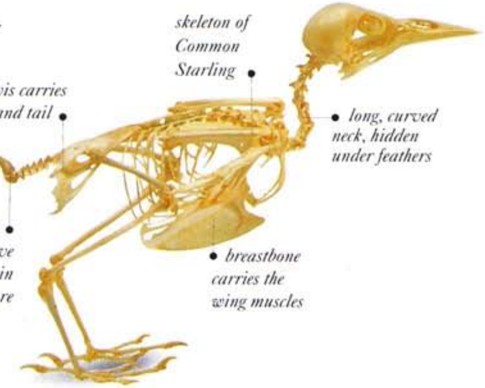
mountains

ANATOMY OF BIRDS

BIRDS ARE ANIMALS that can fly, and virtually every feature of a bird shows that it is highly adapted to this purpose. The body is short, strong, and compact, the internal organs being protected by the breastbone and the pelvis. The breastbone is broad and flattened to carry large flight muscles. The legs are strong and springy and are muscular at the point where they join the body. They must provide the push for takeoff and cushion the shock on landing. Anatomically, a bird's wings correspond to human hands, but most of the "finger" bones are absent in birds. The wings carry the large fans of feathers used in flight but folded away when at rest. Since a bird has no hands, its bill must be adapted for all feeding. The tail has evolved into a short row of bones carrying the large, adjustable fan of tail feathers.


Common Starling
wings fold over the back when at rest
tail held below the wings

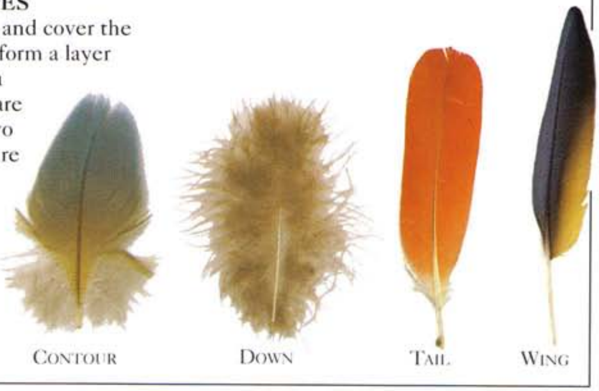
A typical bird has a neat, streamlined shape, formed with its feather-covered body and wings; its bill is covered by a hard sheath, and it has bare, scale-covered legs and feet.


skeleton of Common Starling
pelvis carries legs and tail
long, curved neck, hidden under feathers
tail bones rise above wing bones in this posture
breastbone carries the wing muscles

The skeleton has a thinner structure and is lightly made to aid flight. The bill lacks the smooth sheath of the living bird, and the wings and tail look short and bony.

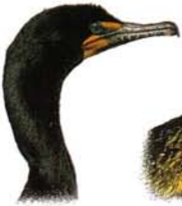
FOUR FEATHER TYPES

Contour feathers are small and cover the body, while down feathers form a layer underneath providing extra insulation. Flight feathers are long and stiff. There are two types: tail feathers, which are often symmetrical, and wing feathers, which are unevenly shaped. The feathers on this page are not to scale – many birds have wing feathers, for instance, that would be taller than this book.

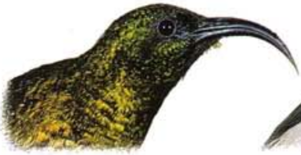

CONTOUR
DOWN
TAIL
WING

SHAPE AND MOVEMENT

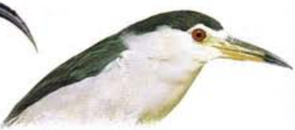
The shape of a bird and of its various parts are clues to the way in which it lives. The bill, for instance, is always very precisely adapted to a bird's particular method of feeding. Similarly, a bird's way of flying, standing, or moving on the ground – for instance, whether it hops or walks – are related to its way of life. The way a bird clings to its perch is always closely adapted to its habitat or to the type of vegetation in which it normally lives. People who watch birds learn to take an interest in shape and movement, as they help indicate the overall category in which to place the bird being watched. This can be combined with other information to help identify the bird.



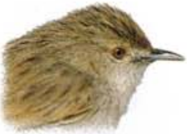
CORMORANT: SHARP BILL OF A FISH-EATER



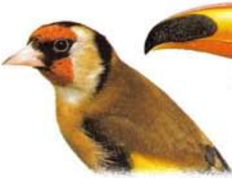
SUNBIRD: DOWNCURVED BILL FOR PROBING FLOWERS FOR NECTAR



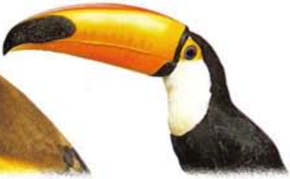
HERON: A STRONG, DAGGER-LIKE BILL FOR STABBING AND SEIZING



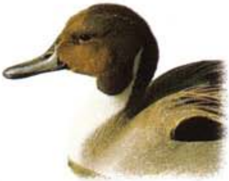
WARBLER: A SLENDER, INSECT-EATING BILL



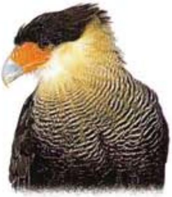
GOLDFINCH: CRACKS SEEDS WITH ITS STRONG BILL



TOUCAN'S LONG BILL REACHES OUT FOR FRUIT

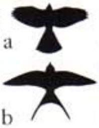


DUCK'S BILL FILTERS FOOD FROM WATER

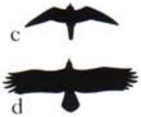


FLESH-EATER'S SHARP, HOOKED BILL

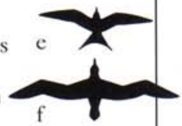
Look carefully at flight silhouettes: forest raptors (a) have rounded wings; martins (b) have narrow, tapering wings.



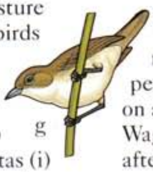
The tapering wings and narrow tail of a falcon (c) contrast with the broad, splayed wings and broad tail of an eagle (d).

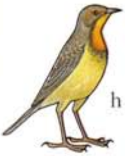


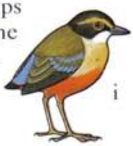
Terns (e) have long, elegant wings; albatross wings (f) are very long, with an extended inner section.



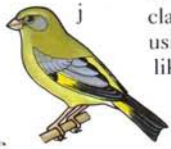
Look, too, at posture and gait. Some birds like the Reed Warbler (g) cling to vertical stems. Pipits (h) always walk; pittas (i) travel by hops and leaps along the ground.

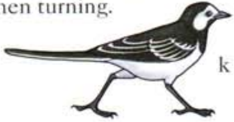




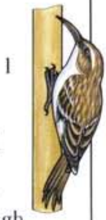


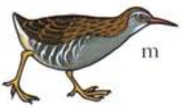
Many birds, including most finches, perch upright (j) on a level branch. Wagtails (k) run after insects on the ground, using their tails as rudders or brakes when turning.





Look for birds that clamber up trees, using sharp claws, like this treecreeper (l). The Water Rail (m) has long legs and a narrow body for squeezing through marsh vegetation.

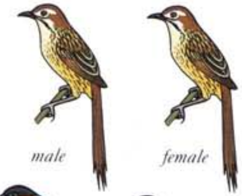




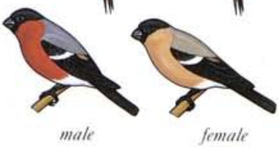
VARIATIONS WITHIN SPECIES

A SPECIES is a kind of bird, a number of related individuals that can interbreed and produce fertile young. However, there are many species in which the birds do not all look alike. Male and female adults are often differently colored. Young birds look different from adults, which may give them better camouflage or may prevent unnecessary fighting for territory. This page shows how "family members" (male, female, and juvenile) can look different; the page opposite shows other ways in which a species can vary: it may have subspecies (local forms) or two or more color phases.

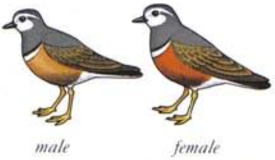
Sexes alike: the Cape Grassbird (*right*) is an example. Males often have a different song.



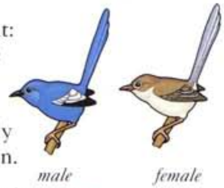
Pattern similar but male has brighter hues than female, as in the Eurasian Bullfinch (*right*).



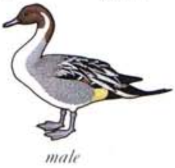
Pattern similar but female has brighter hues than male, as in the Eurasian Dotterel (*right*).

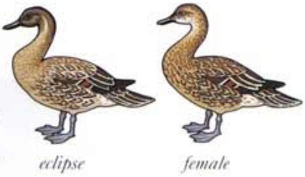


Sexes totally different: fairy-wrens (*right*) are an example of this category. The full difference is seen only in the breeding season.

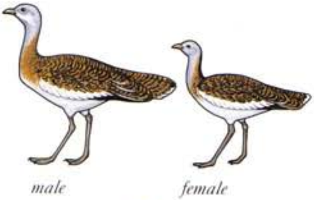


Sexes totally different in breeding plumage; the male goes into a third "eclipse" plumage for part of the nonbreeding season. Eclipse males look like females, but with slight differences. This occurs in many duck species, such as the Pintail (*right*).

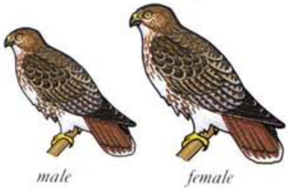




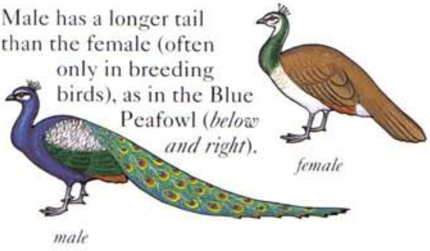
Male is significantly larger than female: the Great Bustard (*right*) is one example.

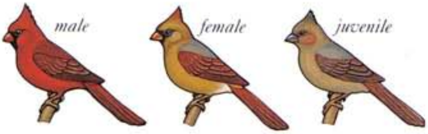


Female is significantly larger than male, as in the Red-tailed Hawk (*right*) and other birds of prey.



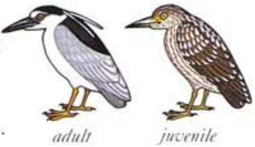
Male has a longer tail than the female (often only in breeding birds), as in the Blue Peafowl (*below and right*).





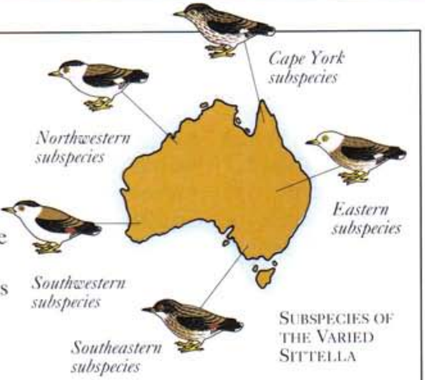
Juvenile looks similar to the female but is duller, as in the Northern Cardinal (*above*).

Juvenile is totally unlike the adult, as in the Black-crowned Night-Heron (*right*) and many other herons.



SUBSPECIES

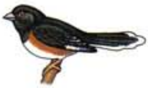
Many species have distinct local forms known as subspecies. These look different from one another, though often in only a minor way. They can be distinguished by color, size, song, or sometimes by features like bill shape or tail length.



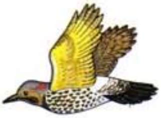
SUBSPECIES OF THE VARIED SITTELLA

EXAMPLES OF SUBSPECIES

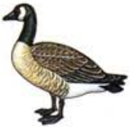
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE: EASTERN SUBSPECIES



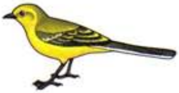
NORTHERN FLICKER: EASTERN SUBSPECIES



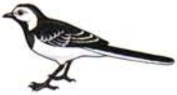
CANADA GOOSE: SEVERAL SUBSPECIES, VARYING IN SIZE ONLY



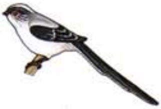
YELLOW WAGTAIL: WESTERN SUBSPECIES



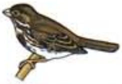
WHITE WAGTAIL: WESTERN SUBSPECIES



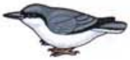
LONG-TAILED TIT: GRAY-BACKED SUBSPECIES



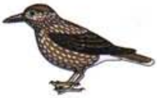
FOX SPARROW: DARK, WESTERN SUBSPECIES



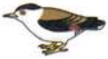
EURASIAN NUTHATCH: WHITE-BREASTED SUBSPECIES



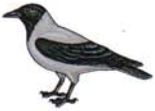
EURASIAN NUTCRACKER: SLENDER-BILLED SUBSPECIES



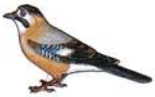
VARIED SITTELLA: SOUTHWESTERN SUBSPECIES



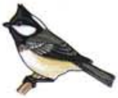
CARRION CROW: HOODED SUBSPECIES



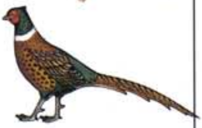
EURASIAN JAY: BLACK-CROWNED SUBSPECIES



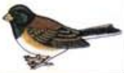
COAL TIT: CRESTED SUBSPECIES



COMMON PHEASANT: RING-NECKED SUBSPECIES

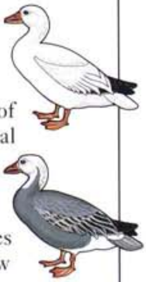


DARK-EYED JUNCO: OREGON SUBSPECIES



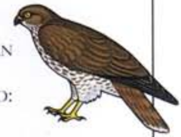
COLOR PHASES

In some species, differently colored individuals occur, regardless of geographical area, like the white and blue color phases of the Snow Goose.

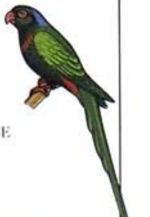


EXAMPLES OF PHASES

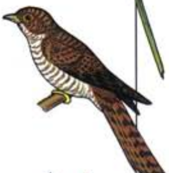
EURASIAN HONEY BUZZARD: RUFOUS PHASE



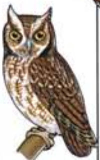
PAPUAN LORIKEET: BLACK PHASE



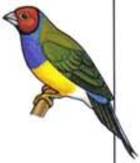
COMMON CUCKOO: RUFOUS PHASE



EUROPEAN SCOPS OWL: RUFOUS PHASE



GOULDIAN FINCH: RED-HEADED PHASE



WATCHING BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

BIRD WATCHING, OR BIRDING, usually begins at home. In any garden or yard, there are bound to be a number of birds that are already present; it doesn't take much work to adapt a garden so that it offers the best for birds and brings in more than the usual handful of species. Some things are particularly likely to attract birds: water, both for drinking and bathing; maximum variety in the habitats available; providing possible nest sites; and offering food, at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way.

NEST BOXES

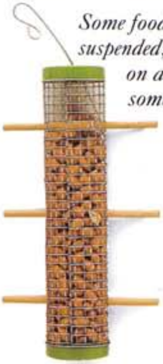
Birds that use nest boxes range in size from passerines, like chickadees, robins, and nuthatches, to some ducks and birds of prey. Boxes shown here are for small passerines; other species need boxes of different sizes and designs.

small flower pot base, suitable for drinking water
larger flower pot base also makes a good bath
birds like to bathe in shallow water

WATER CONTAINERS

Many passerines like water to be provided in a raised site, such as a bird table. Other birds prefer to drink from a shallow pool on the ground, with good all-round visibility.

Some food should be suspended; some placed flat on a raised site; some scattered on the ground


peanut dispenser

coconut for small birds

bread is less nutritious for birds, but a useful stopgap in winter

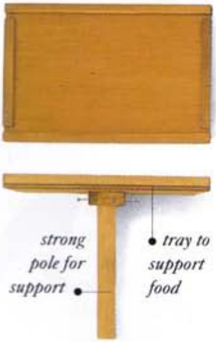
"bird pudding"

mixed loose seeds

fat and seed ball

BIRD TABLES

In colder climates, many people build food tables to feed birds in winter. This prevents food from being lost in the snow or taken by scavengers. Shown here are two views of a simple table that can be made at home.


strong pole for support
tray to support food

WATCHING BIRDS IN THE FIELD

THE THOUGHT OF learning how to find and identify birds out in the wild seems a daunting one, but once you have been there to look for them, perhaps with someone who knows the birds of the area, your skill will develop rapidly. You will very soon get used to looking carefully at the shapes and colors of birds and to watching their actions. The type of habitat in which the birds occur, their location (such as whether high or low in the trees, or down on the ground), and any vocalizations they make are all useful clues.

BINOCULARS

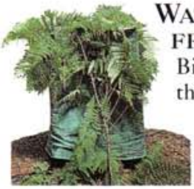
Lightweight types are the most practical, with magnifications of 7 to 10. With higher powers, you may spend too long aiming and focusing.

well balanced, lightweight model

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

The most suitable type of camera for photographing birds is a 35 mm SLR model. Practice on garden birds first, to acquire the skills of judging distance, focusing in the time available, and steadying the camera for the shot.

short lens for normal use



WATCHING FROM A BLIND

Birds are often alarmed at the sight of people, but if you hide behind or within a simple structure they will soon forget your presence and go about their business. A temporary, movable blind can be made by camouflaging a simple tent with branches and leaves (*above left*). A parked car (*left*) is a very effective blind, as the birds usually fail to realize that it contains humans.

NOTEBOOK

Make notes of what you see, or even a fast sketch; there is no better way to train your eye for detail. A notebook also provides a record of the birds you have seen and forms a log of activities, which will help in planning future trips.

LONG LENSES

To photograph small or distant birds, you will need a high-powered lens (200 mm focal length or more) and, for best results, a tripod to keep it steady.

PERMANENT BIRD BLINDS

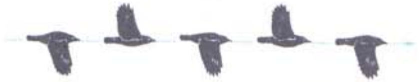
Large blinds, often seen in nature reserves for wildfowl, can accommodate many visitors.

BIRD PROTECTION IN THE BREEDING SEASON

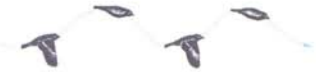
Remember that birds breeding are birds sensitive to disturbance. Nothing should be done that frightens them or alters the surroundings of their nests. Once frightened, they may abandon the nest, which could set their breeding back a whole year.

IDENTIFYING BIRDS IN FLIGHT

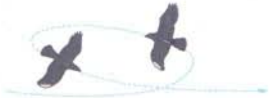
FLIGHT IS A helpful identification feature for many birds. Some whole groups of species can be recognized by their flight patterns. During courtship, many birds perform special display flights, and these, too, can help in identification. As soon as a bird takes off or opens its wings, the markings it reveals may provide crucial clues as to what species you are looking at.



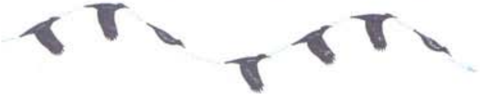
Steady flight with regular wingbeats, along a direct path, is typical of a very large number of species. These range from crows (*above*) to geese, pigeons, and many smaller birds.



Some small birds, such as finches (*above*), conserve energy by rising on a wingbeat, then closing the wings to the body, and swooping until the next wingbeat.

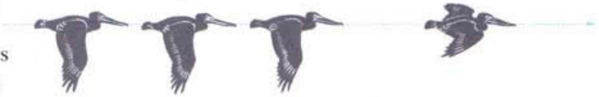


Some larger birds (*above*) often soar and glide without flapping their wings, rising a little each time they turn into the wind.



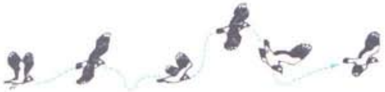
Woodpeckers (*above*) have an undulating flight style. They ascend with several wingbeats, then swoop down on closed wings like finches.

Some large birds (*right*) have an energy-saving style of flight in which bursts of strong wingbeats alternate with long, level glides.



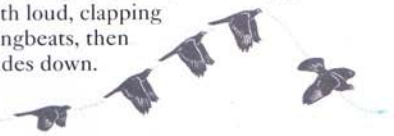
DISPLAY FLIGHTS

Birds that are breeding often perform aerobatic display flights to attract a mate or show their presence to rivals. This is especially common in open-country birds.

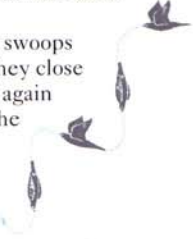


The Northern Lapwing (*above*) has an erratic, tumbling display, with wild calls.

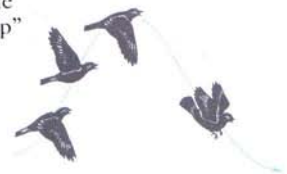
Flying from the treetops, the Common Wood-Pigeon (*below*) rises steeply, often with loud, clapping wingbeats, then glides down.



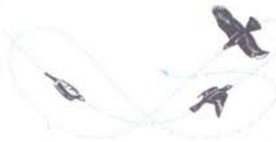
Some eagles (*right*) perform swoops and dives high in the air. They close their wings to dive, turn up again briefly, and then continue the plunge before finally leveling out.



The male Meadow Pipit (*below*) rises from the ground in a steep, fluttering flight, during which he utters weak "tip" calls. Then he parachutes down again, uttering one long trill.

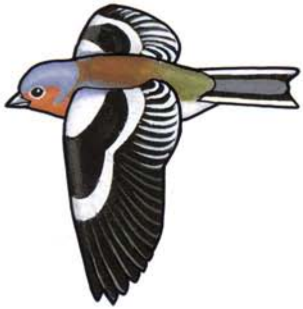


"Pendulum" displays (*right*) are seen in some birds of prey and some hummingbird species.



MARKINGS ON THE WINGS

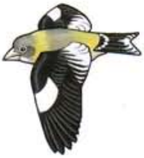
The moment a bird takes to the air, it is likely to display vivid markings on the spread wings and tail. These include white or colored patches, bars, or stripes, that are hidden while the bird is perched. Other birds feeding nearby, often in a mixed-species flock, notice the change in appearance and interpret it as a warning of danger and the need to fly. The pattern also enables each bird to recognize members of its own species, which it will then follow to safety. We, too, are able to use the pattern, together with details like song or behavior, to identify the species.



ALARM SIGNAL On taking off, the male Chaffinch reveals a vivid pattern (*above*).

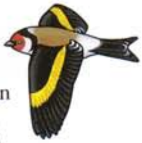
WING PATCHES

Look for the flash of wing patches. These are panels of a conspicuous, vivid color, as seen on the female Evening Grosbeak (*right*).

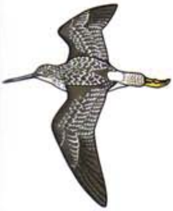


WING STRIPES

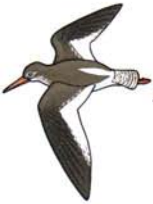
These are bands of a bright, contrasting color that show along the extended wing when the bird is seen in flight, as in the Eurasian Goldfinch (*right*).



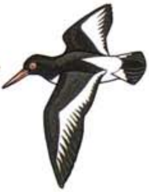
WINGS OF WADERS AND DUCKS



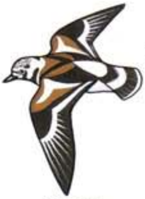
GREATER YELLOWLEGS



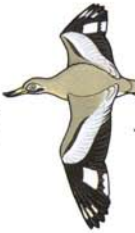
COMMON REDSHANK



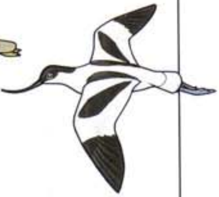
EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER



RUDDY TURNSTONE



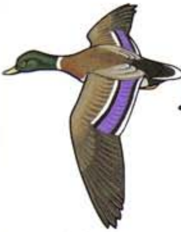
BEACH THICK-KNEE



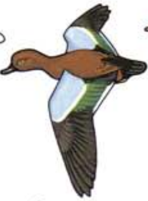
PIED AVOCET

In shorebirds, also known as waders (*above*), most species have their own characteristic patterns of white on the wing. These marks become visible only when the birds fly.

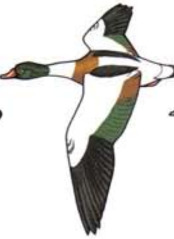
As well as having patterns of white stripes on the wing, some ducks (*below*) also have a speculum – a white or vividly colored panel located on the inner flight feathers.



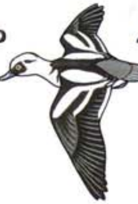
MALLARD



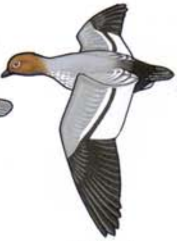
CINNAMON TEAL



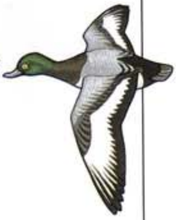
COMMON SHELDUCK



SMEW



MANED DUCK

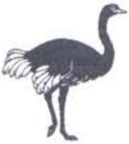


GREATER SCAUP

IDENTIFICATION KEY

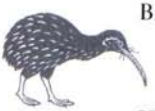
THE FAMILIES to which birds belong are not always useful as guides to how they will look when seen in the field. A good number of families include birds that are very unlike one another in vital respects, such as color, shape, habitat, or behavior. This key solves the problem by setting up categories that are not based on family but on habitat and feeding manner. Bear in mind that categories like this cannot be watertight – birds are living creatures and can rarely be tied down to a single habitat or style of behavior. This means that in some cases you may find it helpful to try alternative ways through the key. Stage 1 (*opposite*) divides all birds into five basic types. Choose the relevant one and follow its symbol into Stage 2, where the basic types are divided into helpful categories. Silhouette images lead from here into Stage 3 (*pp. 22–37*), giving possible identifications.

STAGE 2: WALKING AND WADING BIRDS



LARGE FLIGHTLESS BIRDS

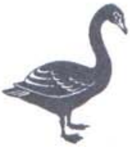
Very big birds, some taller than humans, mostly with long legs and necks. Some live in open country and survive by their ability to walk or run long distances.



SMALLER FLIGHTLESS BIRDS

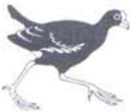
Birds from pigeon- to chicken-size that live on the ground and hide in vegetation or in burrows; some are nocturnal.

STAGE 2: WATERBIRDS



WATERBIRDS SWIMMING WITH WEBBED FEET

Birds mostly feeding at the surface; some reach beneath the surface, and some dive to pursue fish or other prey.

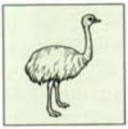


WATERBIRDS SWIMMING WITHOUT WEBBED FEET

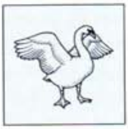
Mostly surface feeders, though some dive. Some have lobes on their toes as swimming aids.

STAGE 1

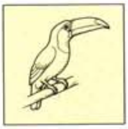
This part of the key groups birds into basic types. Most birds fit into one of the first four categories, enabling you to move on immediately to Stage 2. A few belong to the category of Specialized Feeders. To understand this group, turn to the relevant parts of Stage 2 (*bottom of pp. 20–21*) and then look at the examples shown in Stage 3 (*pp. 36–37*); this will make it clear which birds belong to this category.



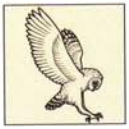
WALKING AND WADING BIRDS



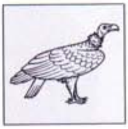
WATERBIRDS



FRUIT-EATERS, NECTAR-FEEDERS, AND SEED-EATERS



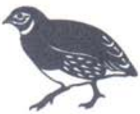
HUNTERS ON LAND AND IN TREES



SPECIALIZED FEEDERS

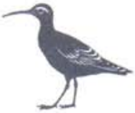
SMALLER RUNNERS WITH SHORT BILLS

Ranging from pigeon- to chicken-size, these are birds that spend most or all of their time on the ground, often feeding on seeds but that can fly when necessary.



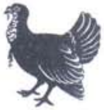
SMALLER RUNNERS WITH LONG BILLS

Pigeon- to chicken-size birds with slender bills for probing the ground and feeding on insects. Most of them can fly when necessary.



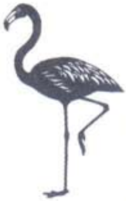
MEDIUM-SIZE RUNNERS

These are turkey-size birds that spend most of their time on the ground, though all are able to fly. A number of them nest and roost in the branches of large trees.



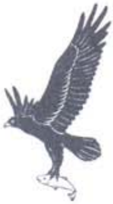
LARGE, LONG-LEGGED WADING BIRDS

Nearly all these birds wade in shallow water or marshes – the rest feed in grassland. All can fly. Most have long necks for reaching down to feed.



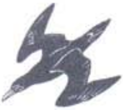
WATERBIRDS THAT SNATCH FROM THE AIR

Birds that locate their prey by flying over water, then snatch it from the surface or just below, without swimming.



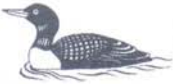
WATERBIRDS THAT PLUNGE-DIVE FROM THE AIR

Birds that generally spot prey while flying over water, then plunge beneath the surface to seize it or chase after it.



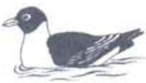
WATERBIRDS THAT DIVE FROM THE SURFACE

Surface-swimmers that submerge to hunt. Most swim with their feet, some with their wings.

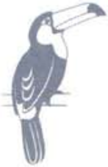


WATERBIRDS THAT ALIGHT ON THE SURFACE

Birds that settle from the air to take food from the surface; some make a shallow dive.



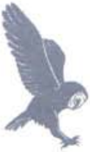
STAGE 2: FRUIT-EATERS, NECTAR-FEEDERS, AND SEED-EATERS



FRUIT-EATERS

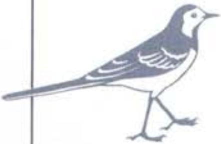
This category consists mainly of tree-dwelling birds. Most eat the fruit where it grows on the branch, some without plucking it. Some birds merely remove the flesh from the inside of large, soft fruits. Fruit-eating bills are adapted in various ways. Some are very long, enabling the bird to reach fruit without having to walk on thin twigs; others are shorter and stouter and are useful for cutting or grasping fruit.

STAGE 2: HUNTERS ON LAND AND IN TREES



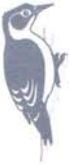
ACTIVE HUNTERS

Birds of this category seek out their prey and pounce on it in a sudden, aggressive attack, pursuing it if necessary. Some are seen patrolling in flight, watching with keen eyes for any movement. Some watch from a perch before swooping down on prey. This group includes many nocturnal hunters.



GROUND FEEDERS

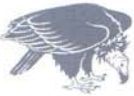
These are flying birds that take food from the surface of the ground or just below.



TREE TRUNK AND BRANCH FORAGERS

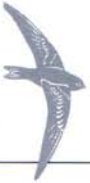
These birds hunt insects that are hidden in cracks in the bark of tree trunks or branches or rest on the bark. Some also chisel out grubs of insects that bore into rotten wood.

STAGE 2: SPECIALIZED FEEDERS



CARRION-EATERS

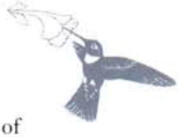
Birds of this category feed on dead animals that they have not killed. Some soar high overhead and scan the ground with their keen eyes to locate carcasses.



AERIAL FEEDERS

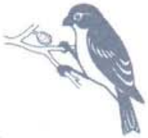
Smaller members of this group feed by catching flying insects. Larger members, such as the frigatebirds, piratically rob other birds of their prey in mid-flight.

NECTAR-FEEDERS



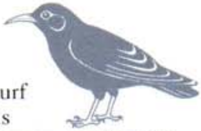
A number of birds feed by inserting their bills into flowers and sucking out nectar. Some of these, such as the lorikeets, are also capable of eating fruit. Many also eat pollen and have brush-tipped tongues for this purpose. Others are more specialized for nectar-feeding and have tubular tongues. Most nectar-feeders also eat small insects that they find in or beside the flowers.

SEED-EATERS



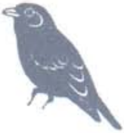
Included in this category are the seed-eaters known to cage and aviary bird enthusiasts – the finches, waxbills, weavers, sparrows, and buntings. Seeds are taken both from vegetation and from the ground. There are many pigeons, parrots, larks, and members of the crow family that also take seed. Acorns and nuts are large seeds, and birds that feed on them, such as jays and nutcrackers, also appear here.

INVERTEBRATE PROBERS



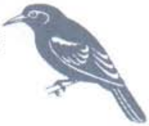
A rich supply of insects and other invertebrates is found in the soil, especially beneath the turf in grassland. Birds in this category exploit this resource, probing the ground with their long, strongly made bills. All birds in this category can fly.

SIT-AND-WAIT HUNTERS



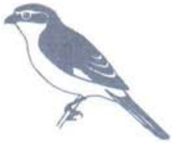
A very large number of species adopt the policy of sitting at some vantage point and watching, ready to swoop to the ground or to fly out after prey when they see it.

INSECT GLEANERS



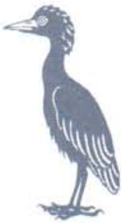
Birds of this category feed by moving through tree foliage, undergrowth, or low-growing plants and taking small creatures from twigs and leaves at random. Any insect that happens to be resting on a leaf or clinging underneath is seized as soon as it is noticed. These birds often hunt in flocks.

INSECT PURSUERS



A number of passerines are small equivalents of the Active Hunters, moving around in search of insects and pouncing on them or chasing them on sight.

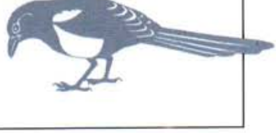
SPECIALIZED EXPLOITERS OF ANIMALS



A number of birds rely on other animals to provide their food. Herds of animals attract parasites and disturb ground insects on which birds can feed. Army ants cause small creatures to flee in panic. The honeyguides rely on any animal, including humans, that will break open bees' nests.

OPPORTUNISTS

Some species do not restrict themselves to a particular type of food or method of finding it. They are able to eat many different types of food and quickly take advantage of any food supply as soon as the opportunity occurs. They may be seen feeding, like other birds, on insects, fruit, or seeds; they may hunt small animals or eat carrion, or they may scavenge at garbage dumps.

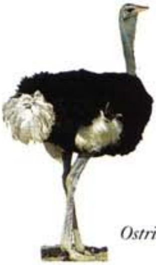


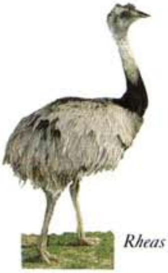
STAGE 3

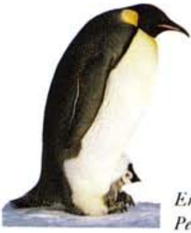
This part of the key brings you closer to identifying the bird you are considering. The categories from Stage 2 are broken down, either to a precise species or to a small group that may contain it. Numbers after the names refer to the pages, or parts of pages, on which the birds appear. This handbook contains descriptions of 819 species, out of some 9,600 known to exist – in other words, one in 11 of the world's birds. Bird species have been specially selected, so that the book covers

WALKING AND WADING BIRDS

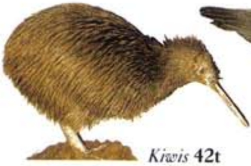
LARGE FLIGHTLESS BIRDS

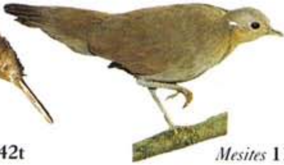

Ostrich **39**

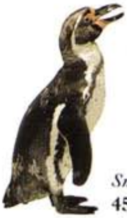

Rheas **38**


Emperor Penguin **44**

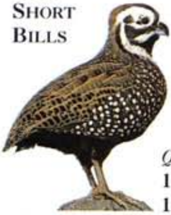
SMALLER FLIGHTLESS BIRDS

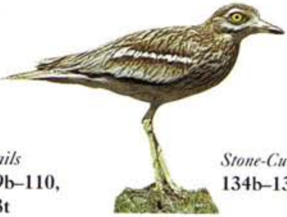

Kiwis **42t**

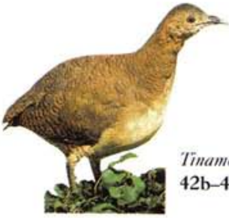

Mesites **118t**

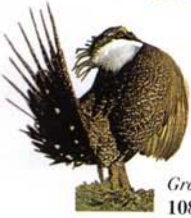

Smaller Penguins **45–46t**

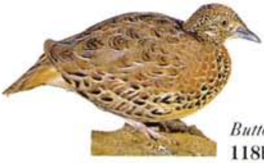
SMALLER RUNNERS WITH SHORT BILLS

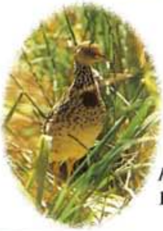

Quails **109b–110, 113t**


Stone-Curlews **134b–135t**

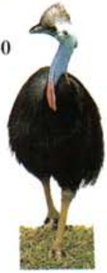

Tinamous **42b–43**

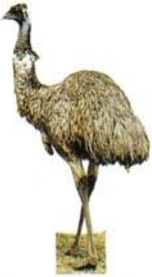

Grouse **108b–109t**


Button-Quails **118b**


Plains Wanderer **119t**

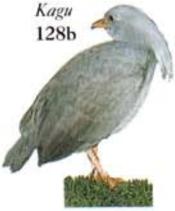
the full range of diversity. In many cases, Stage 3 offers a precise identification, as in the case of the Emu or the Kakapo below. In other cases, Stage 3 refers you to a group of species, such as Pheasants at the bottom of this page. This means that your bird is one of the pheasants illustrated in the book (on pages 113–115 or on 117) or a similar pheasant that is not included in the book. In a group reference of this kind, the name of the type of bird is given in the plural.

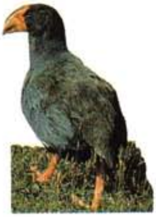

Cassowaries **40**

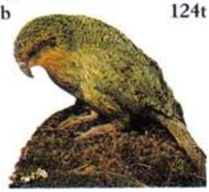

Emu **41**

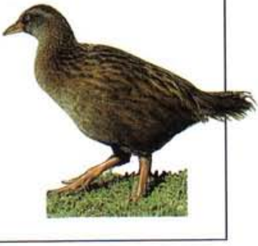
ABBREVIATIONS
Page references use abbreviations to indicate the part of the page to which they apply:

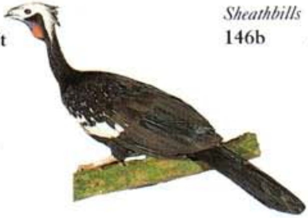
t = top of the page
m = middle
b = bottom

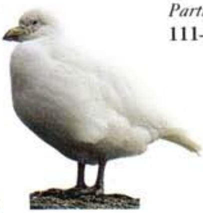

Kagu
128b

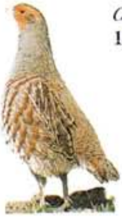

Takahe
127t

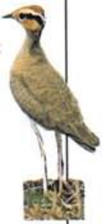

Kakapo
185b

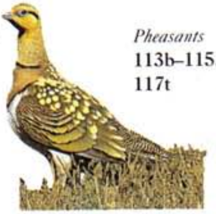

Weka
124t

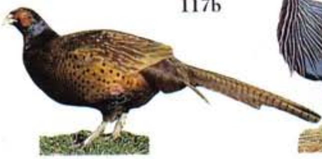

Guans
106b–107t

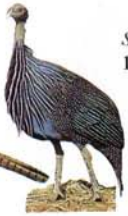

Sheathbills
146b

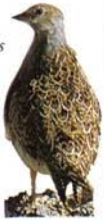

Partridges
111–112


Coursers
135b–136t


Sandgrouse
158


Pheasants
113b–115, 117t

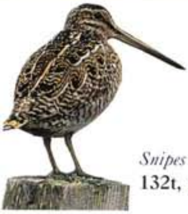

Guineafowl
117b

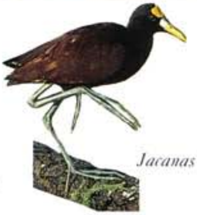

Seedsnipes
146t

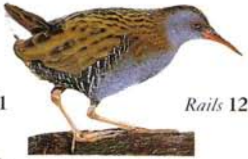
STAGE 3

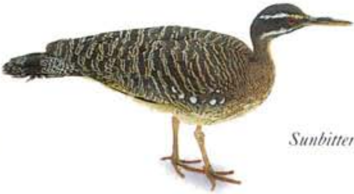
WALKING AND WADING BIRDS *(continued)*

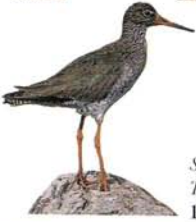
SMALLER RUNNERS WITH LONG BILLS


Snipes 132t, 144

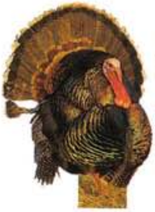

Jacanas 131

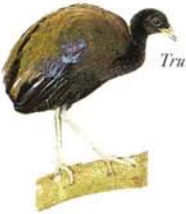

Rails 123–12

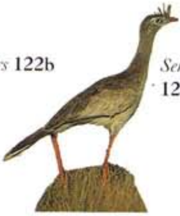

Sunbittern 129t

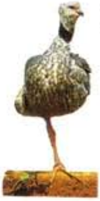

Sandpipers and Typical Shorebirds 141–143, 145

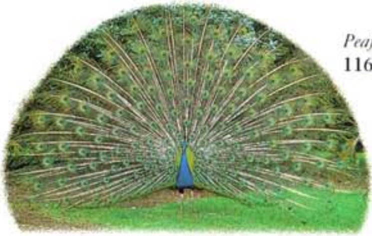
MEDIUM-SIZE RUNNERS

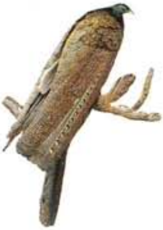

Turkeys 108t


Trumpeters 122b

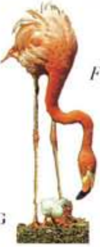

Seriemas 129b

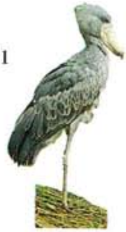

Screamers 70b

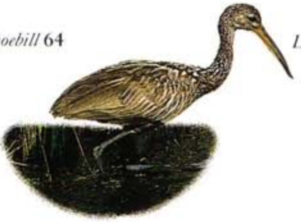

Peafowl 116

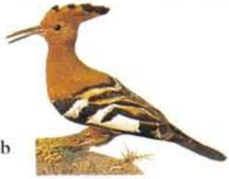

Argus Pheasant 117t

LARGE, LONG-LEGGED WADING BIRDS

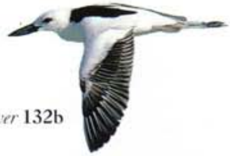

Flamingos 71


Shoebill 64

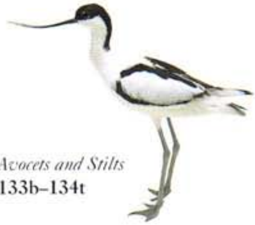

Limpkin 122t



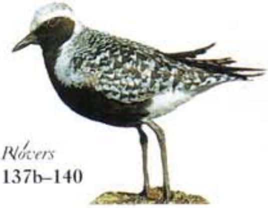
Hoopoe **228b**



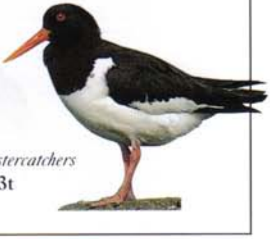
Crab-Plover **132b**



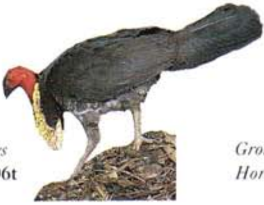
Avocets and Stilts
133b–134t



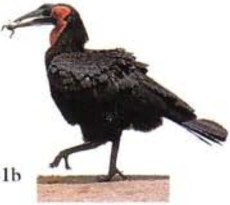
Plovers
137b–140



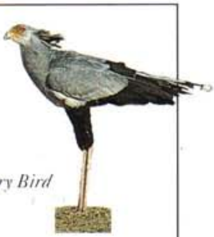
Oystercatchers
133t



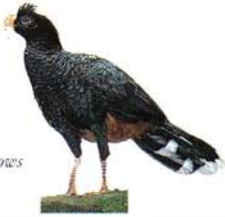
Megapodes
105b–106t



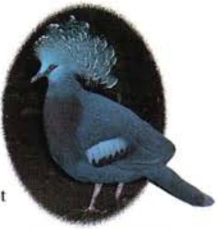
Ground-
Hornbills **231b**



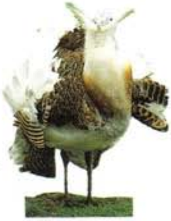
Secretary Bird
100



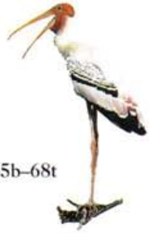
Curassows
107b



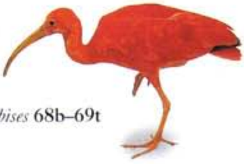
Crowned
Pigeon **166t**



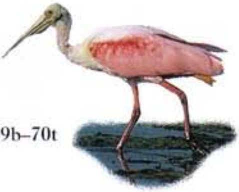
Bustards
130



Storks **65b–68t**



Ibises **68b–69t**

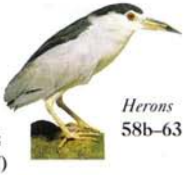


Spoonbills **69b–70t**

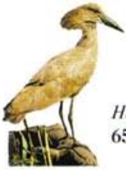
STAGE 3

WALKING AND WADING BIRDS (*continued*)

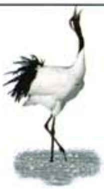
LARGE, LONG-LEGGED WADING BIRDS (*continued*)



Herons **58b–63**



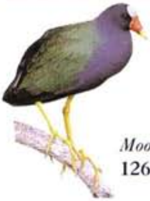
Hammerkop **65t**



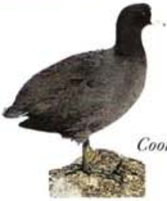
Cranes **119b–121b**

WATERBIRDS

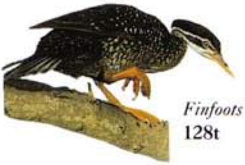
WATERBIRDS SWIMMING WITHOUT WEBBED FEET



Moorhens **126**

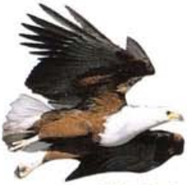


Coots **127b**

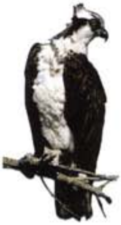


Finfoots **128t**

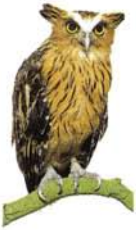
WATERBIRDS THAT SNATCH FROM THE AIR



Fish-Eagles **90–91t**

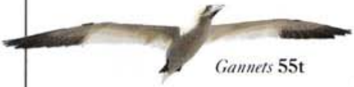


Osprey **88b**

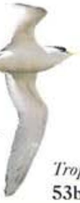


Fish-Owls **198t**

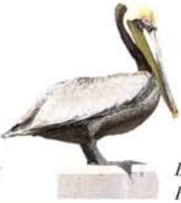
WATERBIRDS THAT PLUNGE-DIVE FROM THE AIR



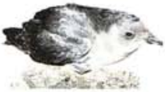
Gannets **55t**



Tropicbirds **53b**

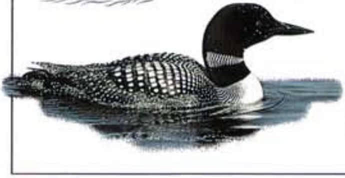


Brown Pelican **54b**

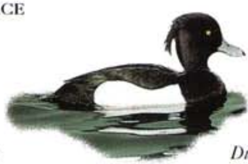


Diving-Petrels **52b**

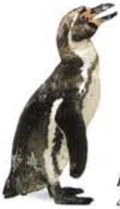
WATERBIRDS THAT DIVE FROM THE SURFACE



Divers **46b**



Ducks **81b–86t**

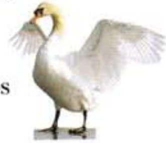


Penguins **44–46t**

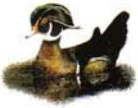
WATERBIRDS

WATERBIRDS SWIMMING WITH WEBBED FEET

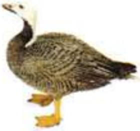
Swans 73



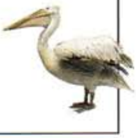
Ducks 76–86t



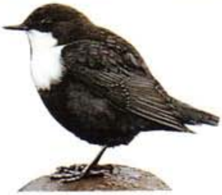
Geese 72t, 74t–75



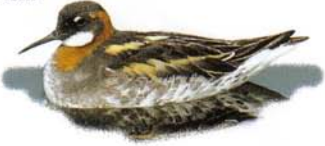
Pelicans 54



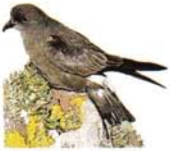
Dippers 280m



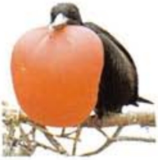
Phalaropes 143m



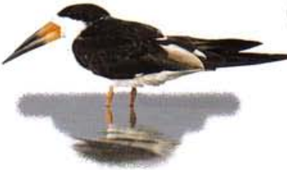
Storm-Petrels 52t–52m



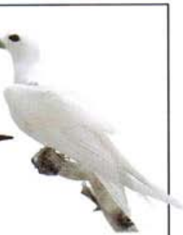
Frigatebirds 58t



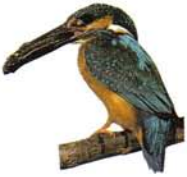
Skimmers 155b



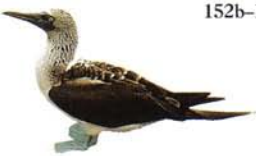
Terns 152t, 154–155t



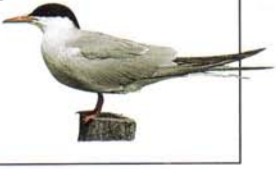
Kingfishers 219b–222



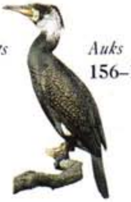
Boobies 55b



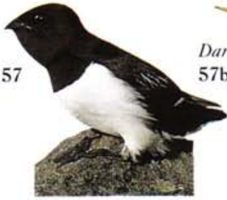
Sea-Terns 152b–153



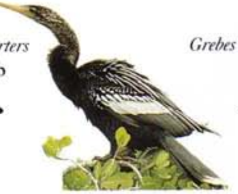
Cormorants 56t–57t



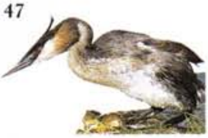
Auks 156–157



Darters 57b



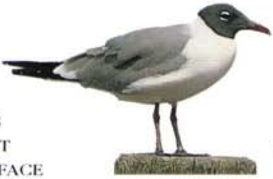
Grebes 47



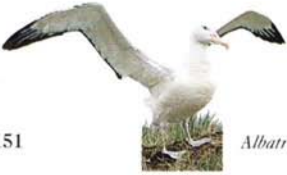
STAGE 3

WATERBIRDS *(continued)*

WATERBIRDS THAT ALIGHT ON THE SURFACE



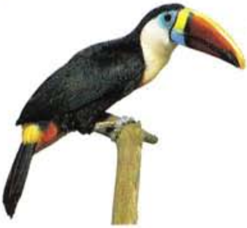
Gulls 148–151



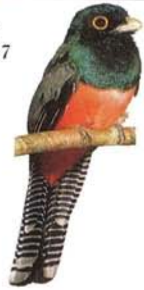
Albatrosses 48–49t

FRUIT-EATERS, NECTAR-FEEDERS, AND SEED-EATERS

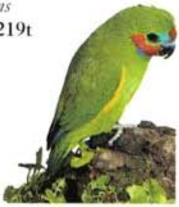
FRUIT-EATERS



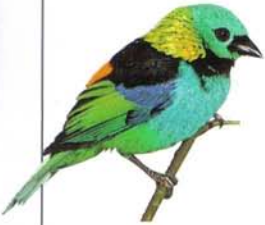
Toucans 236–237



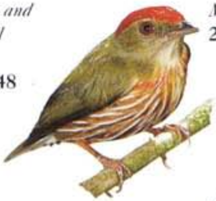
Trogons 218–219t



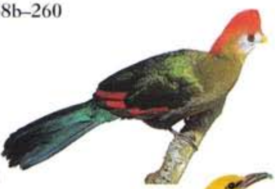
Parrots 169–170, 173, 175b–176t, 177m, 178t, 179–185



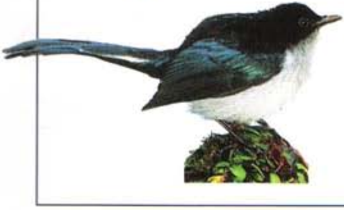
Tanagers and Sharpbill 263m, 342b–348



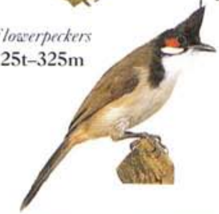
Manakins 258b–260



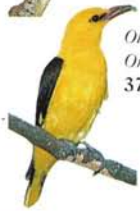
Turacos 186–187



Flowerpeckers 325t–325m

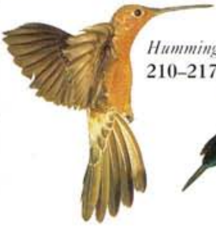


Bulbuls 273b–274

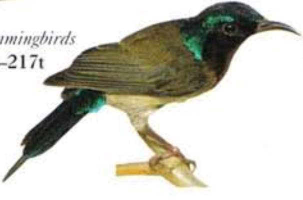


Old World Orioles 379b–380t

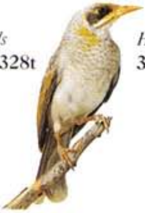
NECTAR-FEEDERS



Hummingbirds 210–217t

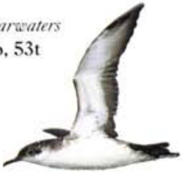


Sunbirds 326m–328t

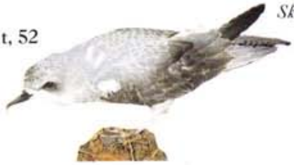


Honeyeaters 329m–333

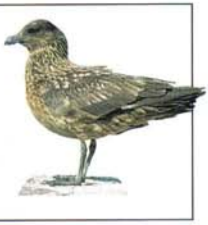
Shearwaters
51b, 53t

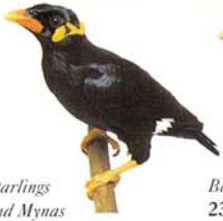


Petrels
49b–51t, 52

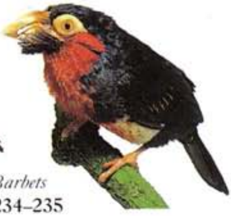


Skuas **147**

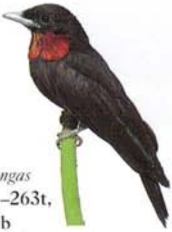




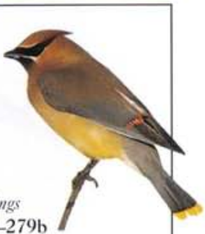
Starlings and Mynas
374–378



Barbets
234–235

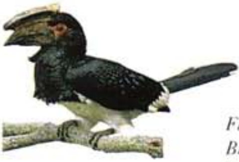


Cotingas
261–263t, 263b

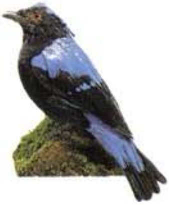


Waxwings
279m–279b

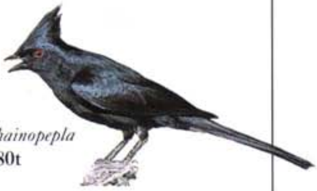
Hornbills
230–231t

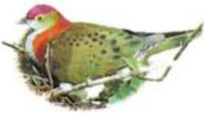


Fairy Bluebirds
275b



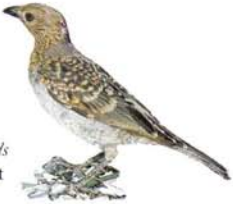
Phainopepla
280t



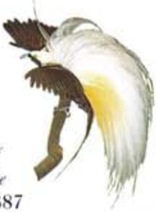


Fruit-Pigeons
165–168

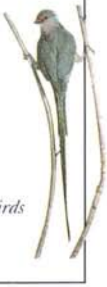
Bowerbirds
385–386t

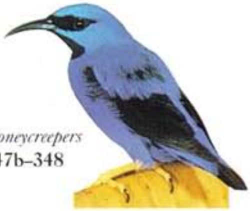


Birds of Paradise
386b–387



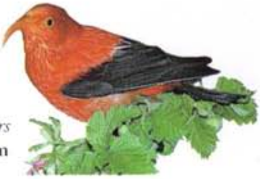
Mousebirds
217b



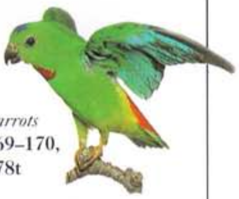


Honeycreepers
347b–348

Hawaiian Honeycreepers
352b–353m



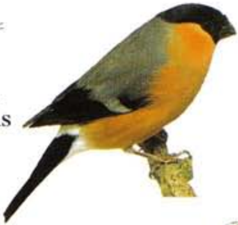
Parrots
169–170, 178t



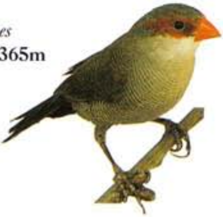
STAGE 3

FRUIT-EATERS, NECTAR-FEEDERS, AND SEED-EATERS *(continued)*

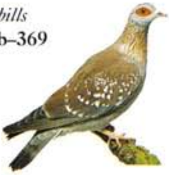
SEED-EATERS



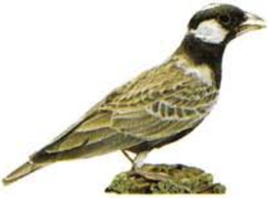
Finches 360–365m



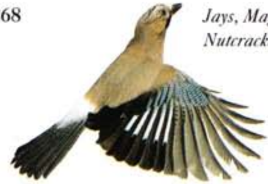
Waxbills 365b–369



Pigeons 159–164



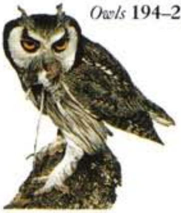
Larks 267–268



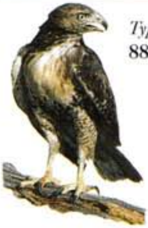
Jays, Magpies, and Nutcrackers 388b–392

HUNTERS ON LAND AND IN TREES

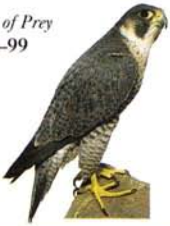
ACTIVE HUNTERS



Owls 194–203t

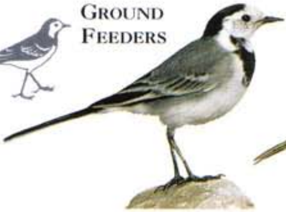


Typical Birds of Prey 88b–90t, 91–99

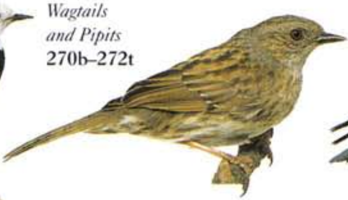


Falcons 101b–105t

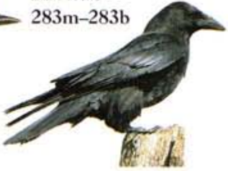
GROUND FEEDERS



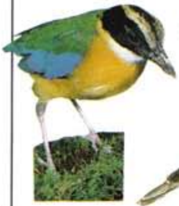
Wagtails and Pipits 270b–272t



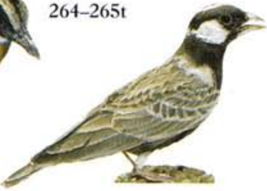
Dunnocks 283m–283b



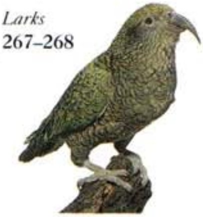
Crows 393–395



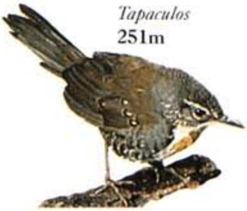
Pittas 264–265t



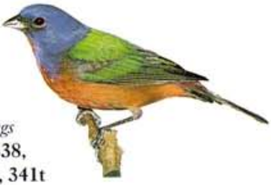
Larks 267–268



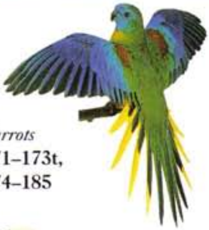
Kea 185t



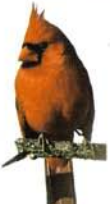
Tapaculos 251m



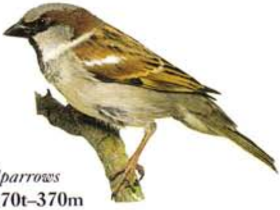
Buntings
**334–338,
339m, 341t**



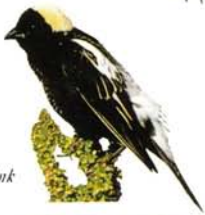
Parrots
**171–173t,
174–185**



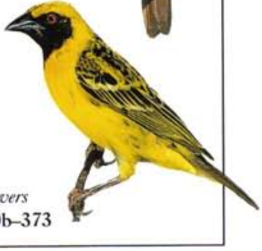
Cardinals **339t,
339b–340,
341b–342m**



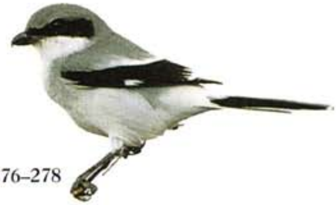
Sparrows
370t–370m



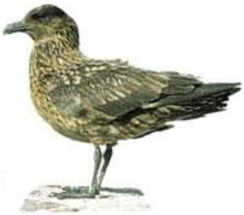
Bobolink
356b



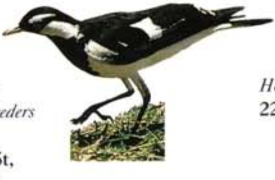
Weavers
370b–373



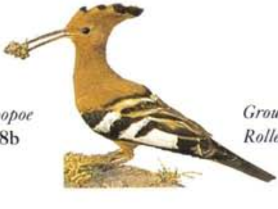
Shrikes **276–278**



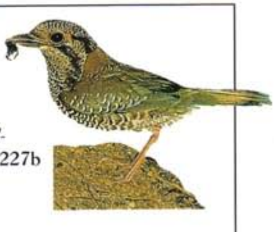
Skuas **147**



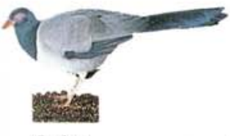
*Australian
Ground Feeders*
**266b,
294b–295t,
314t, 382**



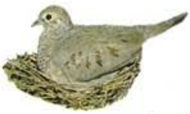
Hoopoe
228b



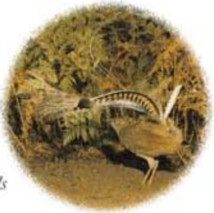
*Ground-
Rollers* **227b**



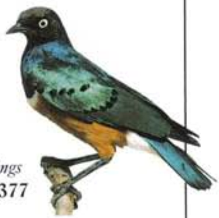
Cuckoos
191–193t



Pigeons
159–164



Lyrebirds
266t

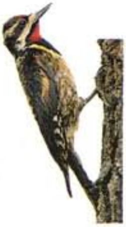


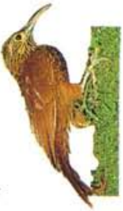
Starlings
374–377

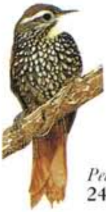
STAGE 3

HUNTERS ON LAND AND IN TREES *(continued)*

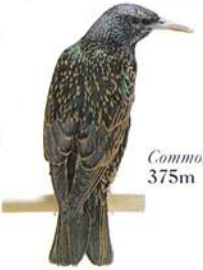
TREE TRUNK AND BRANCH FORAGERS

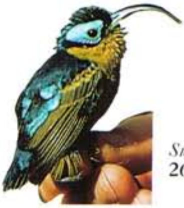

Woodpeckers
238–243

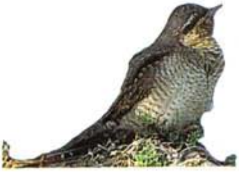

Woodcreepers
245

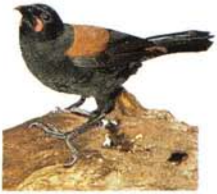

Pearled Treerunner
247t

INVERTEBRATE PROBERS

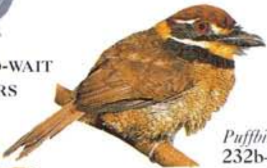

Common Starling
375m

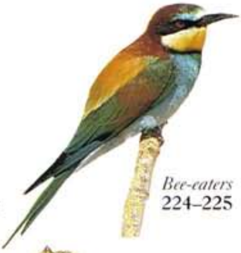

Sunbird-Asity
265b

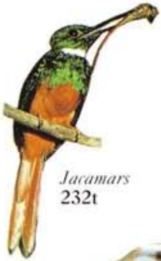

Wrynecks
238t

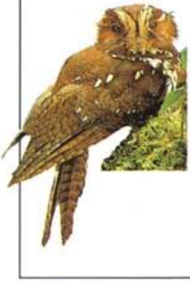

Saddleback
381b

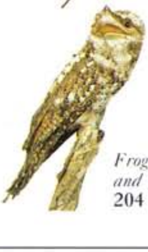
SIT-AND-WAIT HUNTERS

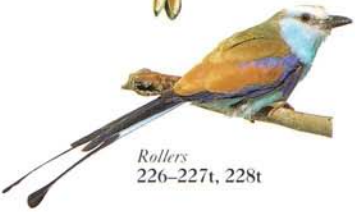

Puffbirds
232b–233t


Bee-eaters
224–225

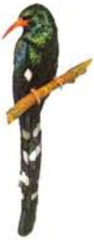

Jacamars
232t


Owlet-Nightjars
205t

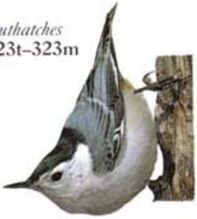

Frogmouths and Potoos
204


Rollers
226–227t, 228t

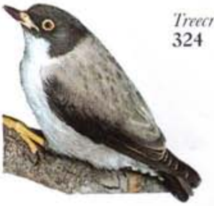
Wood-Hoopoes
229



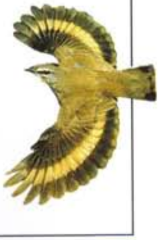
Nuthatches
323t–323m



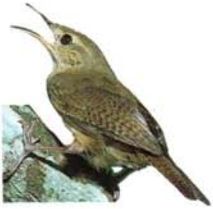
Sittellas
323b



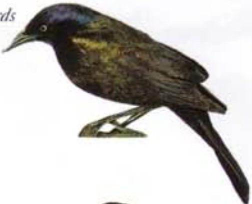
Treecreepers
324



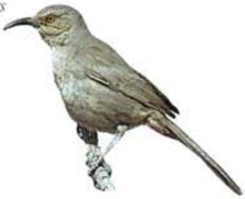
Wrens
280b–283t



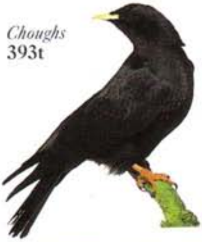
New World Blackbirds
355m–358



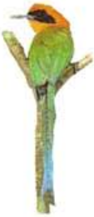
Thrashers
285



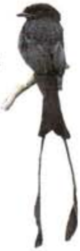
Choughs
393t



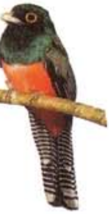
Motmots
223b



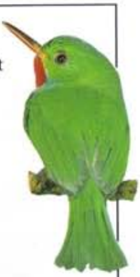
Drongos
380b–381t



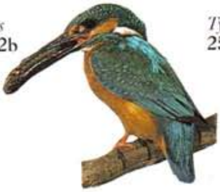
Trogons
218–219t



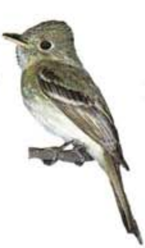
Todies 223t



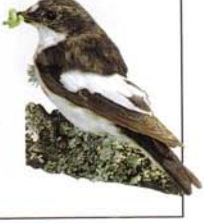
Kingfishers
219b–222b



Tyrant Flycatchers
251b–258m



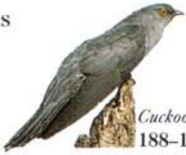
Flycatchers
308b–309, 314b

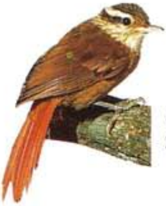


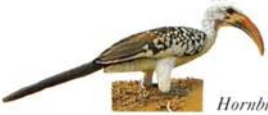
STAGE 3

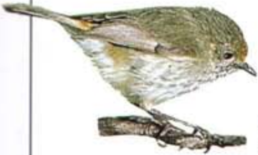
HUNTERS ON LAND AND IN TREES *(continued)*

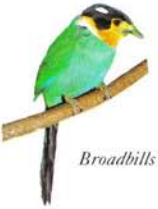
INSECT GLEANERS

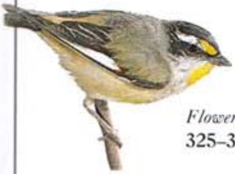

Cuckoos 188–191t

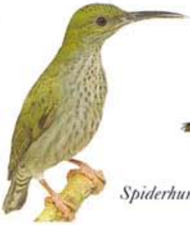

Ovenbirds 246–247

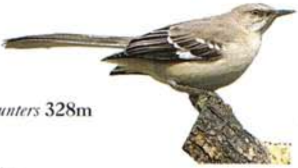

Hornbills 230–231t

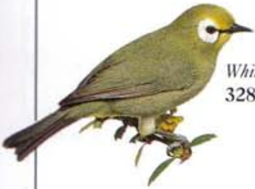

Thornbills 312–313

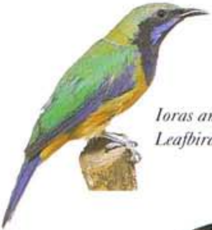

Broadbills 244

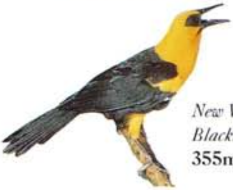

Flowerpeckers 325–326t

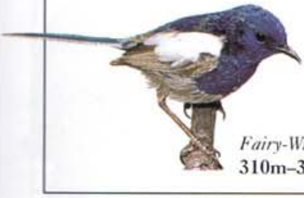

Spiderhunters 328m

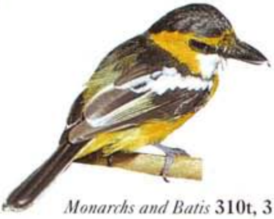

Mockingbirds 284–285

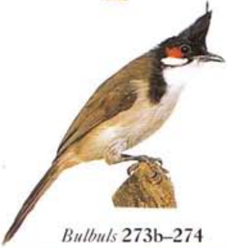

White-eyes 328b–329t


Ioras and Leafbirds 275

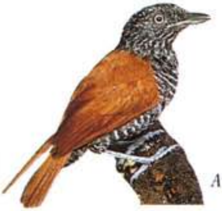

New World Blackbirds 355m–359

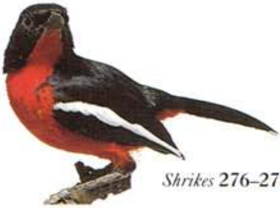

Fairy-Wrens 310m–311


Monarchs and Batis 310t, 315

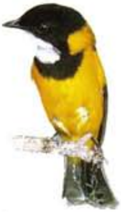

Bulbuls 273b–274

INSECT PURSUERS

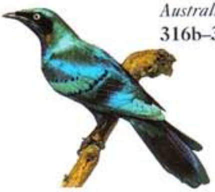

Antbirds 248–250


Shrikes 276–278

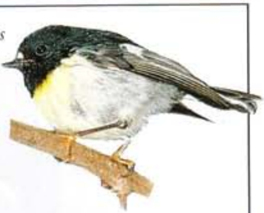
Whistlers 318–319t



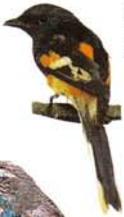
Starlings 374–378



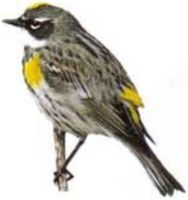
Australian Robins 316b–317



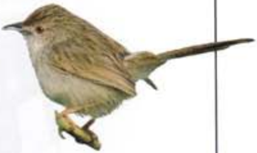
Cuckoo-Shrikes and Minivets 272m–273t



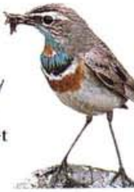
New World Warblers 349–352m



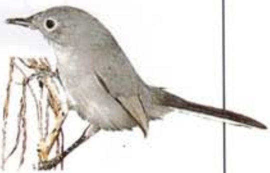
Old World Warblers 301–308m



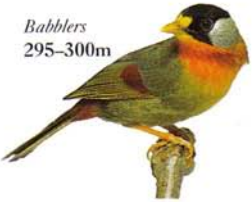
Chats and Thrushes 286–294t



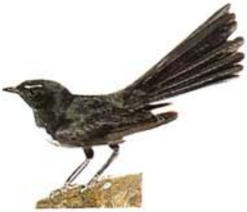
Gnatcatchers and Gnateaters 251t, 300b



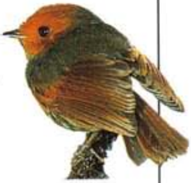
Babblers 295–300m



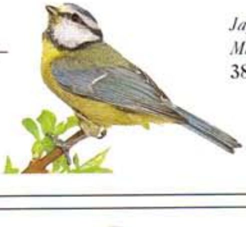
Fantails 316t–316m



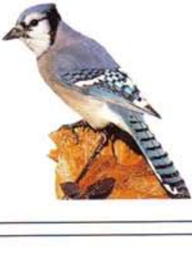
Tyrant Flycatchers 251b–258m



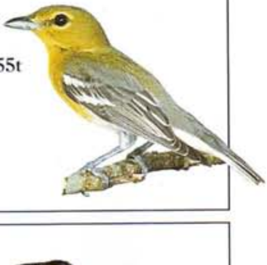
Tits 319m–322



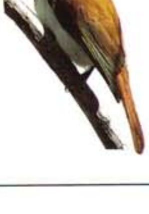
Jays and Magpies 388–392t



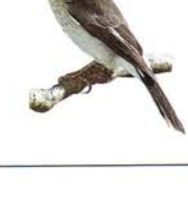
Vireos 353b–355t



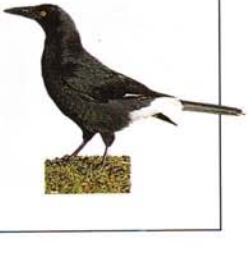
Vangas 279t



Butcherbirds 383b–384t



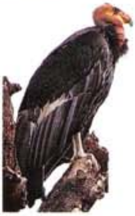
Currawongs 384b



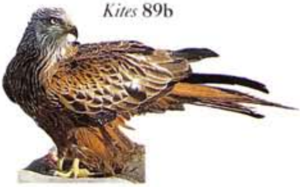
STAGE 3

SPECIALIZED FEEDERS

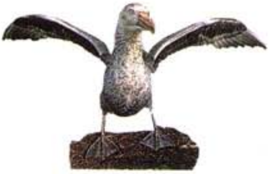
CARRION-EATERS



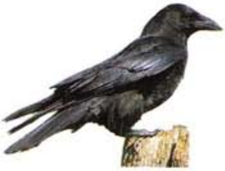
New World Vultures 86b–88t



Kites 89b



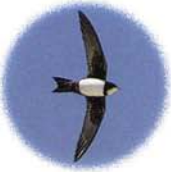
Giant Petrels 49b



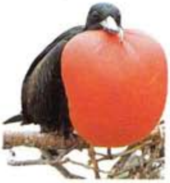
Crows and Magpies 391, 394–395

AERIAL FEEDERS

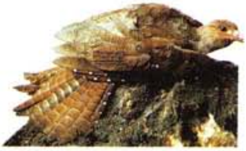
Swifts 208–209

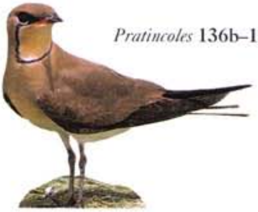


Frigatebirds 58t

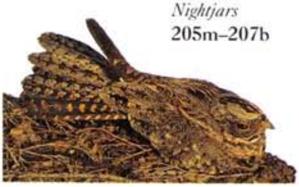


Oilbird 203b



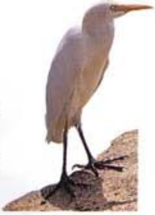


Pratincoles 136b–137t

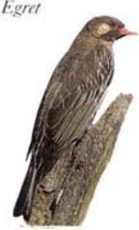


Nightjars 205m–207b

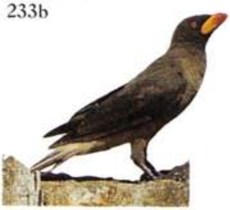
SPECIALIZED EXPLOITERS OF ANIMALS



Cattle Egret 61b

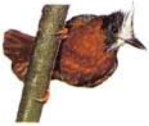


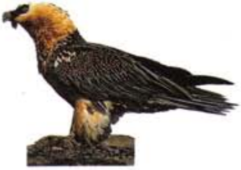
Honeyguides 233b



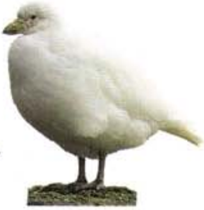
Oxpeckers 379t

Antbirds 249m–250

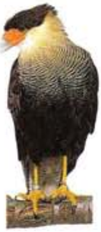




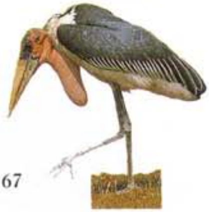
Old World Vultures **91b–92**



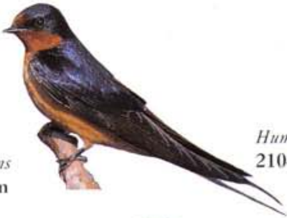
Sheathbills **146b**



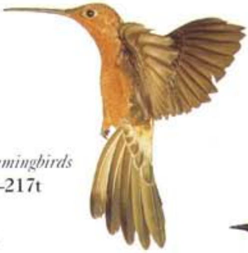
Caracaras **101t**



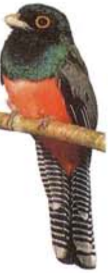
Marabou Stork **67**



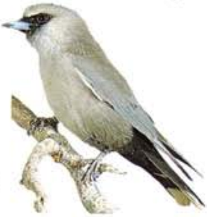
Swallows and Martins **269–270m**



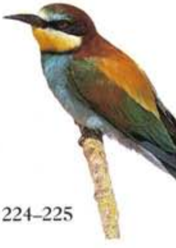
Hummingbirds **210–217t**



Trogons **218–219t**

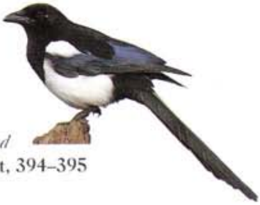


Woodswallows **383t**

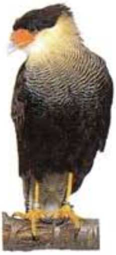


Bee-eaters **224–225**

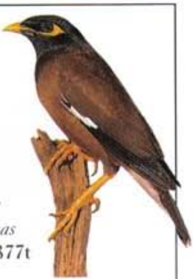
OPPORTUNISTS



Magpies and Crows **392t, 394–395**



Caracaras **101t**



Starlings and Mynas **375m, 377t**

NON-PASSERINES

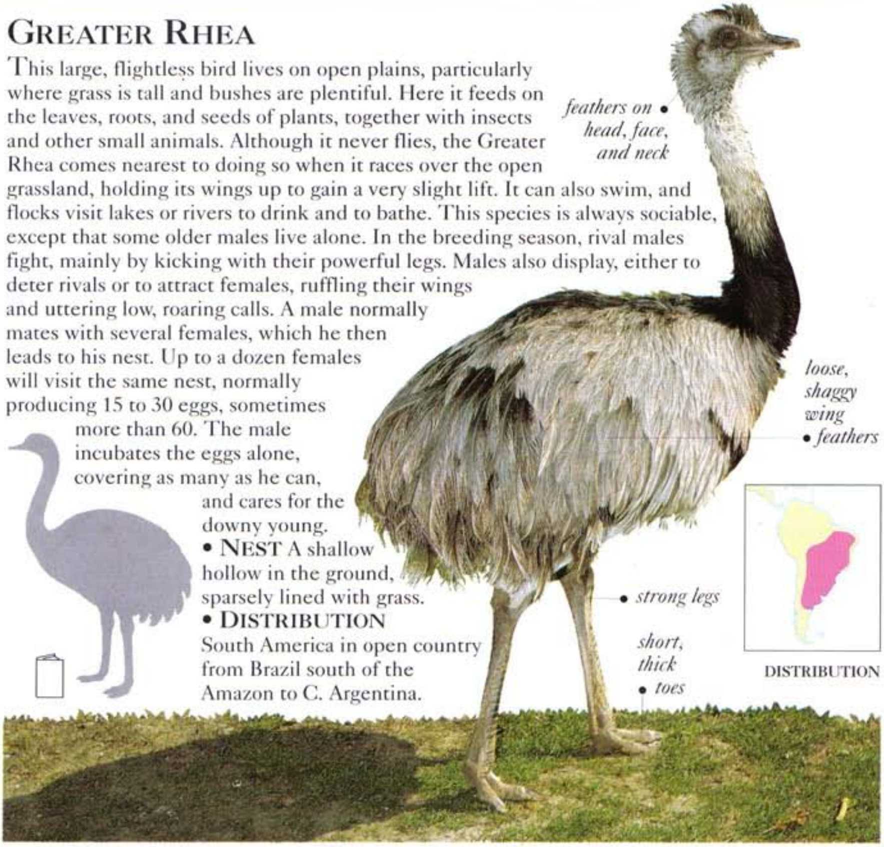
NEARLY HALF THE BIRD species in the world, including all the larger ones, belong to the 98 non-passerine families. The non-passerines occupy a varied range of habitats and include birds of fresh water and the sea, birds that are almost permanently airborne, flightless birds, species that dwell on the ground, and some that are adapted to perching in trees or bushes. Non-passerines often build very simple nests, or the eggs may be laid on bare ground or rock. The young are helpless in some species, but in others they are downcovered, active chicks that can run and feed themselves almost from hatching. Non-passerines vary in voice, but few produce the complicated and musical songs typical of many passerine birds.

Family RHEIDAE	Species *Rhea americana*	Length 51 in (130 cm)

GREATER RHEA

This large, flightless bird lives on open plains, particularly where grass is tall and bushes are plentiful. Here it feeds on the leaves, roots, and seeds of plants, together with insects and other small animals. Although it never flies, the Greater Rhea comes nearest to doing so when it races over the open grassland, holding its wings up to gain a very slight lift. It can also swim, and flocks visit lakes or rivers to drink and to bathe. This species is always sociable, except that some older males live alone. In the breeding season, rival males fight, mainly by kicking with their powerful legs. Males also display, either to deter rivals or to attract females, ruffling their wings and uttering low, roaring calls. A male normally mates with several females, which he then leads to his nest. Up to a dozen females will visit the same nest, normally producing 15 to 30 eggs, sometimes more than 60. The male incubates the eggs alone, covering as many as he can, and cares for the downy young.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, sparsely lined with grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** South America in open country from Brazil south of the Amazon to C. Argentina.



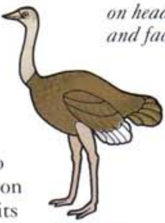
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family **STRUTHIONIDAE**	Species *Struthio camelus*	L. 98 in (250 cm)/79 in (200 cm)

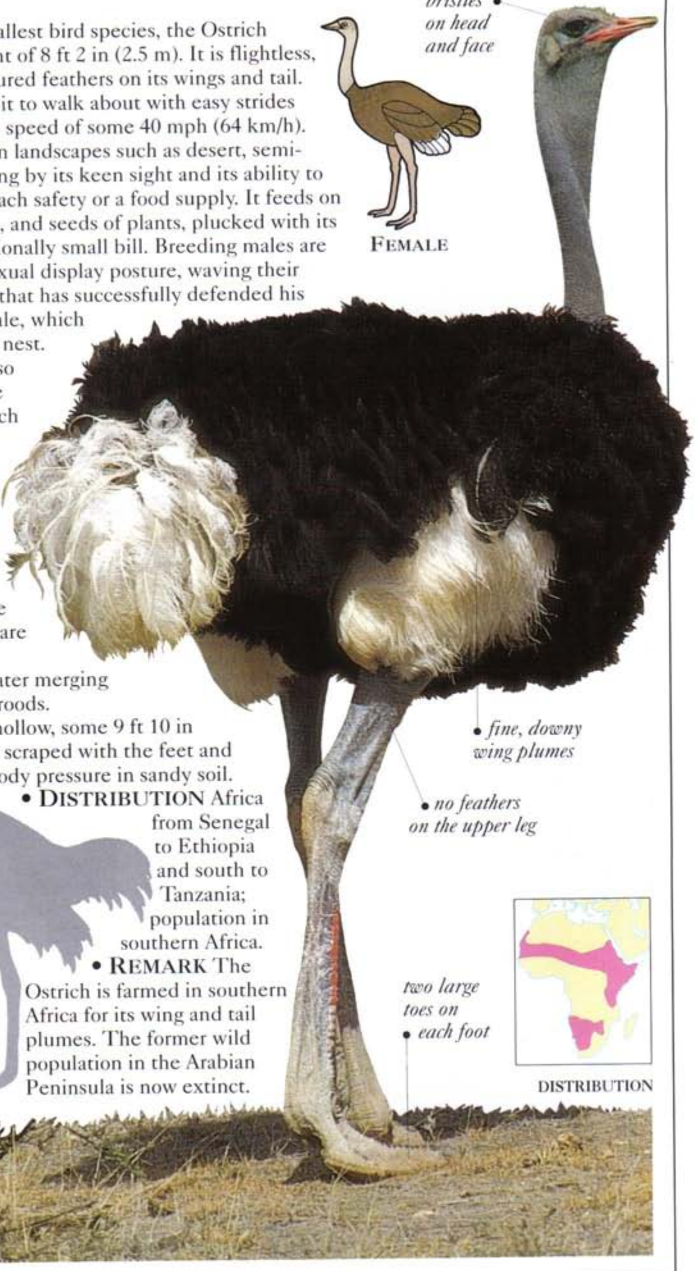
OSTRICH

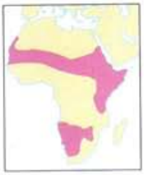
The world's largest and tallest bird species, the Ostrich stands at an average height of 8 ft 2 in (2.5 m). It is flightless, with drooping, loose-textured feathers on its wings and tail. Large, strong legs enable it to walk about with easy strides and to run fast, with a top speed of some 40 mph (64 km/h). The Ostrich inhabits open landscapes such as desert, semi-desert, and grassland, living by its keen sight and its ability to cover long distances to reach safety or a food supply. It feeds on the leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds of plants, plucked with its blunt-tipped and proportionally small bill. Breeding males are seen squatting in their sexual display posture, waving their wings and necks. A male that has successfully defended his territory pairs with a female, which lays her eggs in a shallow nest. The male Ostrich may also mate with as many as five subordinate females, which add their eggs to the clutch. As many as 40 eggs may accumulate, but the dominant female pushes out all but 20, which include her own. She incubates these with the help of the male. The downy young are tended by both parents, sometimes later merging with other broods.

- **NEST** A hollow, some 9 ft 10 in (3 m) across, scraped with the feet and formed by body pressure in sandy soil.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa from Senegal to Ethiopia and south to Tanzania; population in southern Africa.
- **REMARK** The Ostrich is farmed in southern Africa for its wing and tail plumes. The former wild population in the Arabian Peninsula is now extinct.



FEMALE


bristles on head and face
fine, downy wing plumes
no feathers on the upper leg
two large toes on each foot



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CASUARIIDAE

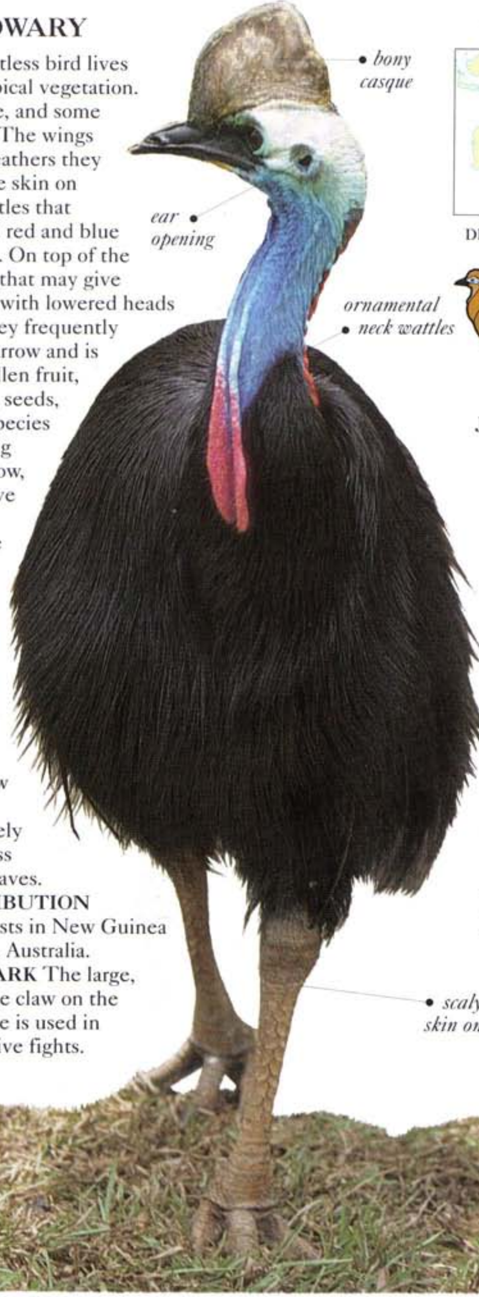
Species *Casuarius casuarius*

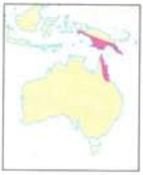
Length 72 in (183 cm)

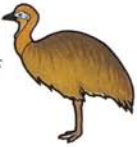
SOUTHERN CASSOWARY

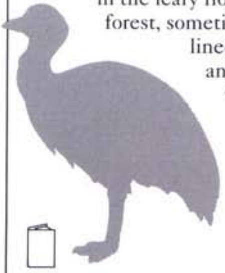
This sturdily built, heavy, flightless bird lives in rain forests among thick, tropical vegetation. Its feathers are coarse in texture, and some end in long, hairlike filaments. The wings are tiny, and in place of flight feathers they carry only a few quills. The bare skin on the head and neck, and the wattles that hang from the neck, are colored red and blue in a pattern that varies with age. On top of the head there is a hornlike casque that may give protection when the birds dash with lowered heads through dense vegetation, as they frequently do when alarmed. The bill is narrow and is normally used for feeding on fallen fruit, and sometimes on green plants, seeds, and some small animals. This species utters a variety of calls, including deep booms, roars, hisses, and low, rumbling sounds. Individuals live alone much of the time. The female is slightly larger than the male, with brighter head and neck colors and a slightly taller casque. When breeding, a female sometimes pairs with more than one male, laying a clutch of eggs for each. The downy chicks are boldly striped and are cared for by the male for the first nine months of life.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the leafy floor of the forest, sometimes sparsely lined with grass and fallen leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Rain forests in New Guinea and N.E. Australia.
- **REMARK** The large, bladelike claw on the outer toe is used in aggressive fights.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE



Plumage Sexes differ slightly

Habitat

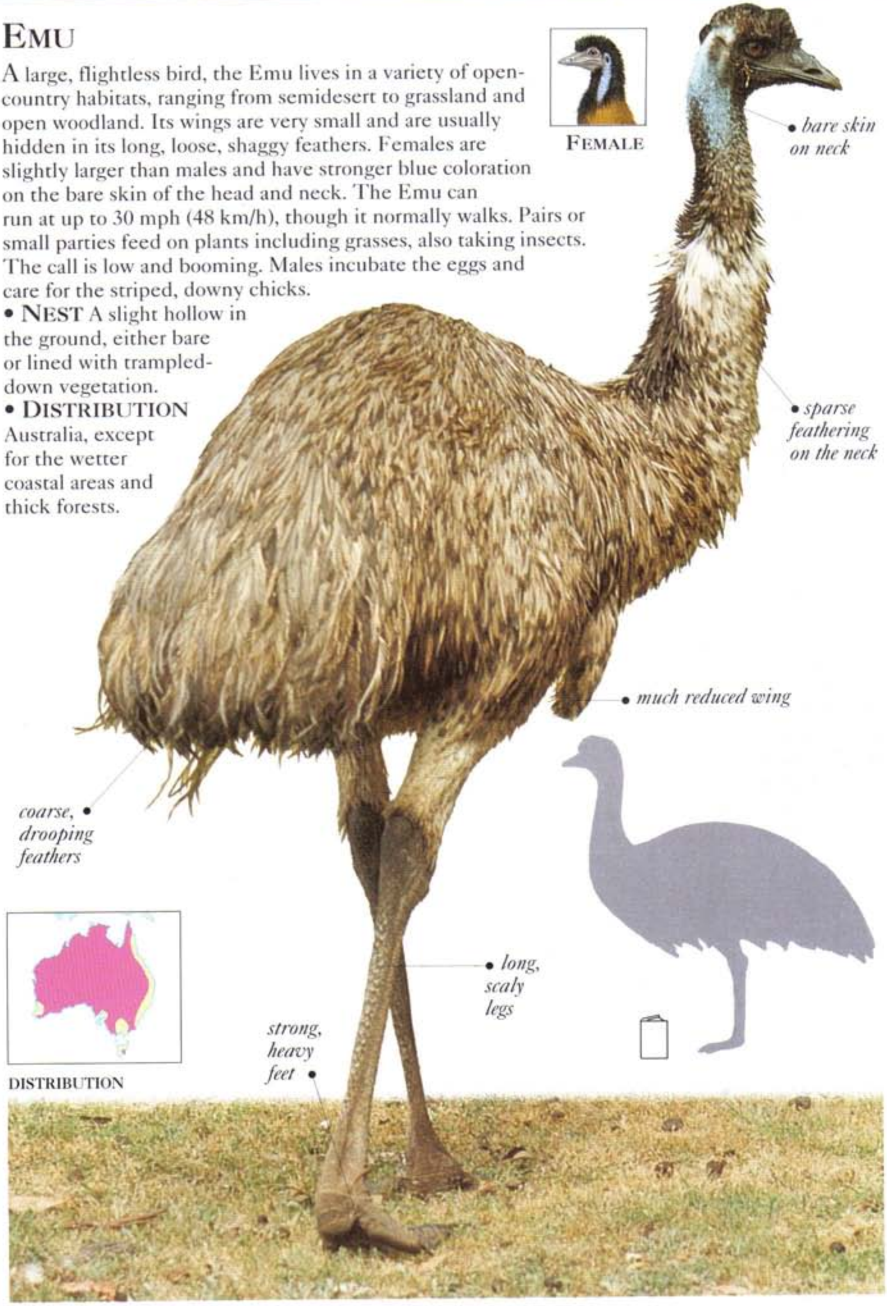
Migration Non-migrant

Family DROMAIIDAE	Species *Dromaius novaehollandiae*	Length 83 in (210 cm)

EMU

A large, flightless bird, the Emu lives in a variety of open-country habitats, ranging from semidesert to grassland and open woodland. Its wings are very small and are usually hidden in its long, loose, shaggy feathers. Females are slightly larger than males and have stronger blue coloration on the bare skin of the head and neck. The Emu can run at up to 30 mph (48 km/h), though it normally walks. Pairs or small parties feed on plants including grasses, also taking insects. The call is low and booming. Males incubate the eggs and care for the striped, downy chicks.

- **NEST** A slight hollow in the ground, either bare or lined with trampled-down vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, except for the wetter coastal areas and thick forests.


FEMALE
bare skin on neck
sparse feathering on the neck
much reduced wing
coarse, drooping feathers
long, scaly legs
strong, heavy feet
DISTRIBUTION

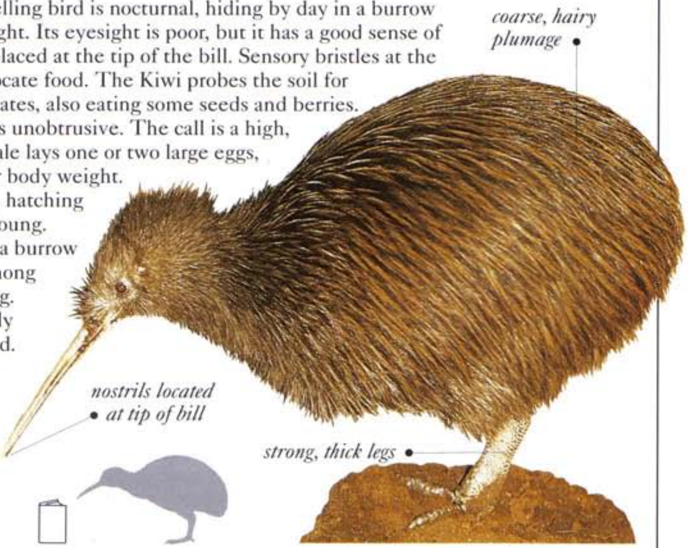
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

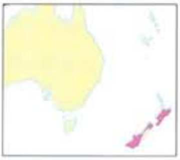
Family APTERYGIDAE	Species *Apteryx australis*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

BROWN KIWI

This flightless, forest-dwelling bird is nocturnal, hiding by day in a burrow or cavity and feeding at night. Its eyesight is poor, but it has a good sense of smell, and its nostrils are placed at the tip of the bill. Sensory bristles at the base of the bill also help locate food. The Kiwi probes the soil for worms and other invertebrates, also eating some seeds and berries. It can run fast but is always unobtrusive. The call is a high, whistling sound. The female lays one or two large eggs, each about one-fifth of her body weight. The male incubates these, hatching out the feathered, active young.

- **NEST** A bare hollow in a burrow in the ground, in a hole among tree roots, or in a hollow log.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Thinly distributed in New Zealand.




DISTRIBUTION

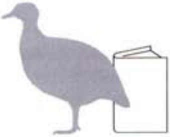
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

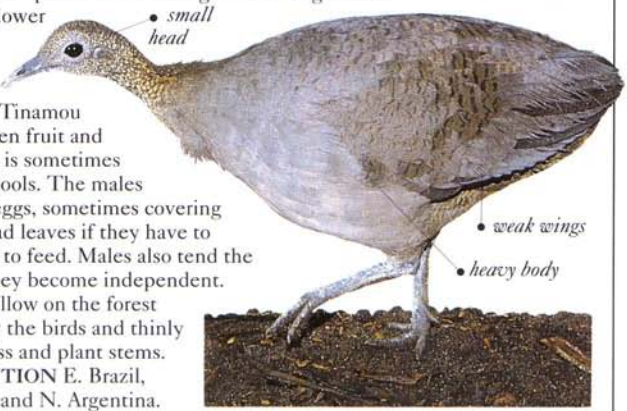
Family TINAMIDAE	Species *Tinamus solitarius*	Length 17½ in (45 cm)

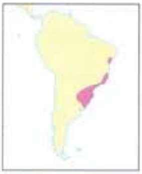
SOLITARY TINAMOU

Characterized by a thin neck, small head, lumpy body, and thick legs, this tinamou is a forest-dwelling bird. It is not very agile and is only a weak flier. When threatened, its most likely response is to creep away quietly or to crouch in hiding and fly off only at the last moment if discovered. It roosts in trees and does not perch easily but positions itself lengthwise along a thick branch, squatting down on the lower part of its legs. The legs are equipped with special rough, projecting scales that help the bird stay in place. The Solitary Tinamou feeds on the ground, taking fallen fruit and seeds, and occasional insects. It is sometimes seen bathing in shallow forest pools. The males incubate the eggs, sometimes covering them with dead leaves if they have to leave the nest to feed. Males also tend the young until they become independent.

- **NEST** A hollow on the forest floor, made by the birds and thinly lined with grass and plant stems.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Brazil, S.E. Paraguay, and N. Argentina.






DISTRIBUTION

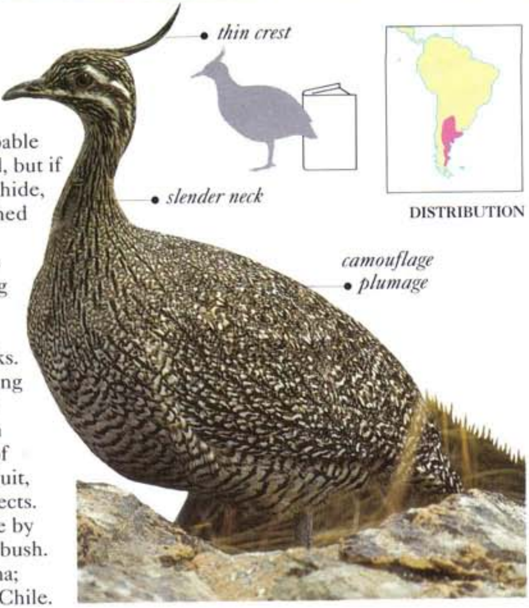
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family TINAMIDAE	Species *Eudromia elegans*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

ELEGANT TINAMOU

The slender, upward-curving crest helps identify this tinamou, which is adapted to living in open country, dry grassland, scrub, and woodland. It is capable of running fairly fast across open ground, but if alarmed it is more likely to crouch and hide, waiting until danger is past. If approached directly it makes a short, low flight on whirring wings as a last resort. At times the Elegant Tinamou is a solitary-living species, but after the breeding season it is seen in family parties, and these sometimes combine to form small flocks. The male incubates the eggs. The young are downcovered and can run and feed within minutes of hatching. They soon leave the nest, under the supervision of the male. The diet consists of seeds, fruit, and other parts of plants, as well as insects.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, made by the birds, often situated close to a low bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Argentina; also scattered, small populations in E. Chile.



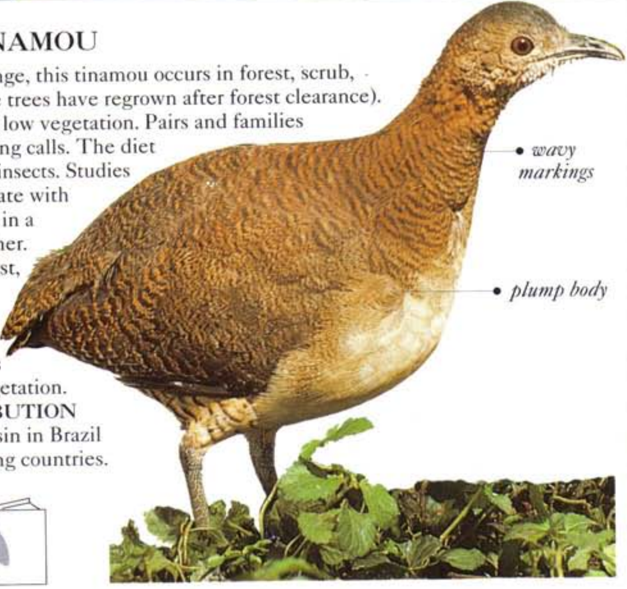
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

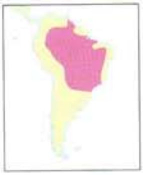
Family TINAMIDAE	Species *Crypturellus undulatus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

UNDULATED TINAMOU

A common bird within its range, this tinamou occurs in forest, scrub, and secondary growth (where trees have regrown after forest clearance). It lives on the ground among low vegetation. Pairs and families maintain contact with whistling calls. The diet consists of seeds, berries, and insects. Studies suggest that the male may mate with several females, which move in a group from one male to another. Each male guards a single nest, in which he incubates eggs from all his partners.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, situated among grass and low vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Amazon Basin in Brazil and adjoining countries.



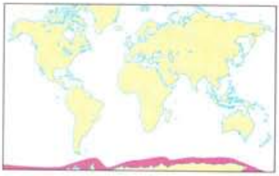


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family SPHENISCIDAE	Species *Aptenodytes forsteri*	Length 45 in (115 cm)

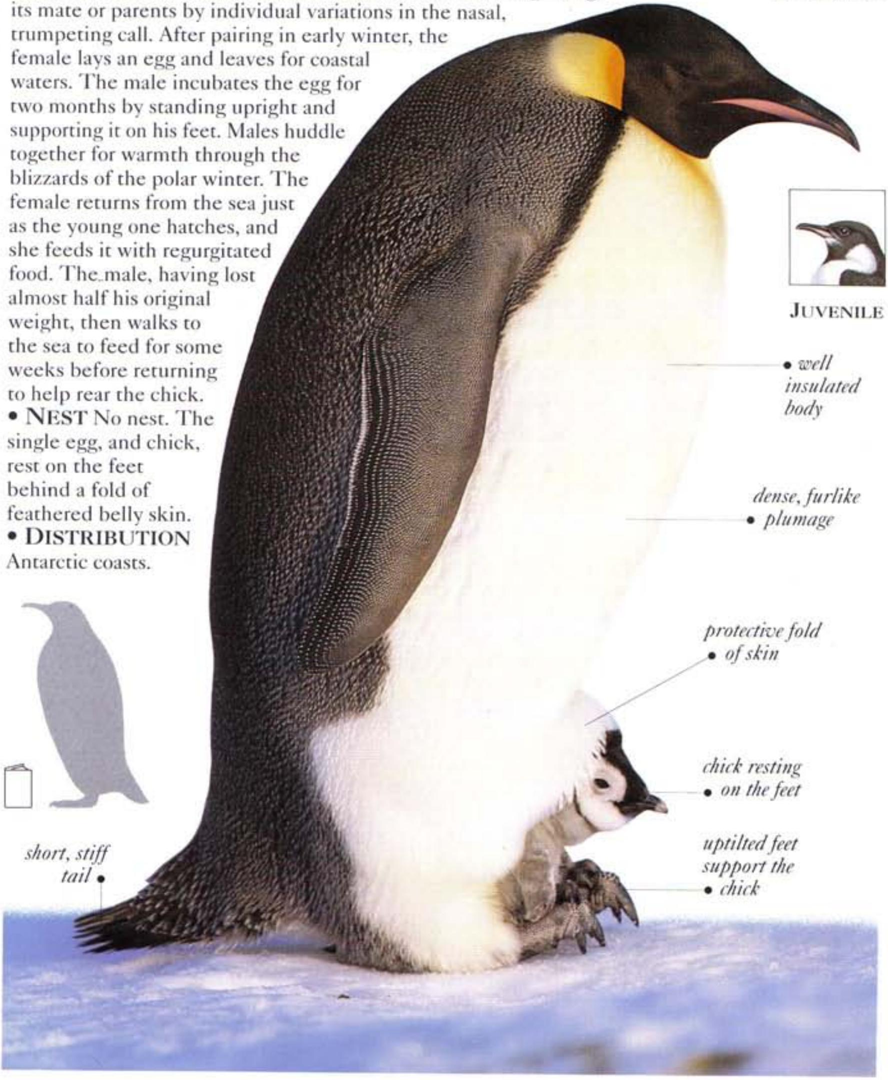
EMPEROR PENGUIN



DISTRIBUTION

This is the largest and most heavily built of all the penguins. It puts on a deep layer of fat all over its stout body during the times of year that it spends feeding in the sea. Propelled by flipperlike wings, the Emperor pursues fish and squid to depths as great as 870 ft (265 m). On ice or snow, it walks upright or drops on its belly and toboggans along, pushing with its flippers. Emperor Penguins breed in colonies on the Antarctic ice, each recognizing its mate or parents by individual variations in the nasal, trumpeting call. After pairing in early winter, the female lays an egg and leaves for coastal waters. The male incubates the egg for two months by standing upright and supporting it on his feet. Males huddle together for warmth through the blizzards of the polar winter. The female returns from the sea just as the young one hatches, and she feeds it with regurgitated food. The male, having lost almost half his original weight, then walks to the sea to feed for some weeks before returning to help rear the chick.

- **NEST** No nest. The single egg, and chick, rest on the feet behind a fold of feathered belly skin.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Antarctic coasts.



JUVENILE

well insulated body

dense, furlike plumage

protective fold of skin

chick resting on the feet

uptilted feet support the chick

short, stiff tail

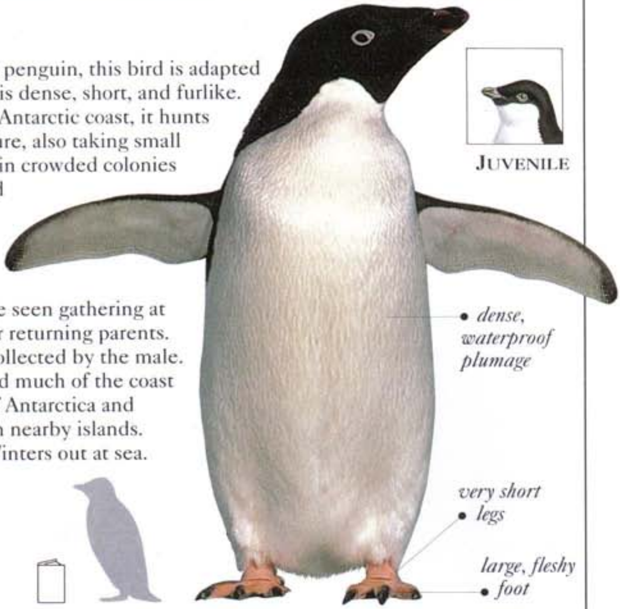
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

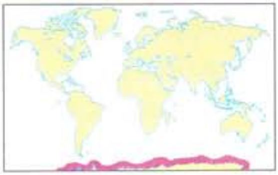
Family **Spheniscidae**	Species *Pygoscelis adeliae*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

Adelie Penguin

A thickset, heavily feathered little penguin, this bird is adapted for polar conditions. Its feathering is dense, short, and furlike. Feeding in the cold waters off the Antarctic coast, it hunts mostly for krill, a shrimplike creature, also taking small fish. Adelie Penguins usually nest in crowded colonies in the Antarctic summer. Each bird returns to the same nest site and the same mate. Pairs usually rear two young each year. During the season, juveniles that have grown large enough leave the nest and are seen gathering at the seashore to beg food from their returning parents.

- **Nest** A low heap of pebbles, collected by the male.
- **Distribution** Breeds around much of the coast of Antarctica and on nearby islands. Winters out at sea.




DISTRIBUTION

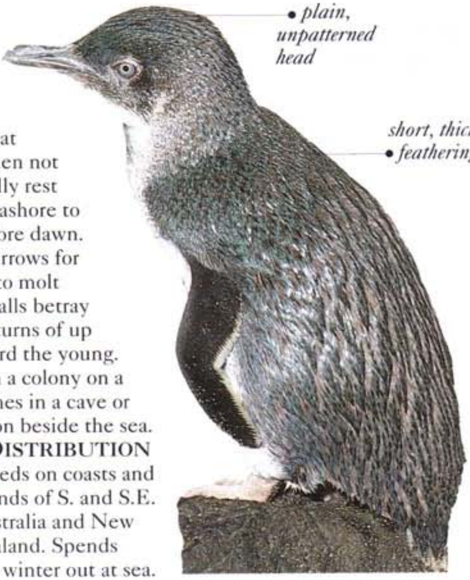
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

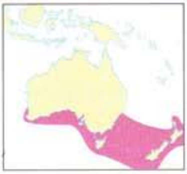
Family **Spheniscidae**	Species *Eudyptula minor*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

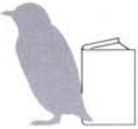
Little Penguin

When on land, this tiny penguin avoids predators by being nocturnal and by the camouflage afforded by its nondescript, plain plumage. The birds feed at sea, swimming underwater to catch fish. When not breeding or molting, Little Penguins normally rest by floating on the open water. Parties come ashore to their colonies after dark and leave again before dawn. The penguins typically use underground burrows for breeding and stay in the burrows afterward to molt their plumage. Noisy braying and yapping calls betray the presence of the penguins. Parents take turns of up to several days to incubate the eggs and guard the young.

- **Nest** A burrow in a colony on a sandy shore; sometimes in a cave or under thick vegetation beside the sea.
- **Distribution** Breeds on coasts and islands of S. and S.E. Australia and New Zealand. Spends the winter out at sea.




DISTRIBUTION



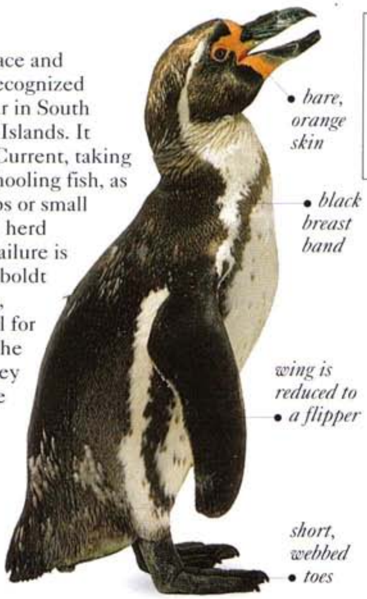
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

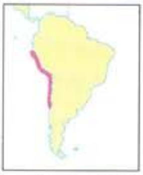
Family SPHENISCIDAE	Species *Spheniscus humboldti*	Length 27 in (68 cm)

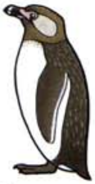
HUMBOLDT PENGUIN

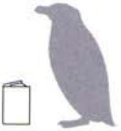
With a banded pattern on its breast and face and a raucous, braying call, this bird is easily recognized as one of the "jackass" penguins that occur in South Africa, South America, and the Galapagos Islands. It feeds in the cold but fish-rich Humboldt Current, taking anchovies, pilchards, and other surface-schooling fish, as well as squid. The penguins hunt in groups or small flocks, diving simultaneously to chase and herd the fish underwater. Breeding success or failure is linked to the season's supply of fish. Humboldt Penguins nest in large colonies of burrows, using caves if they can find no suitable soil for burrowing. Like most nestling penguins, the two downy young grow and fatten until they look a little larger than their parents before molting into their first adult plumage.

- **NEST** A bare hollow in a burrow, cave, or rock crevice, situated close to the sea.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Peru and N. Chile.
- **REMARK** Commercial quarrying for fertilizer has destroyed many colonies of burrows and taken away the soil, forcing the birds to nest in caves or rock crevices.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

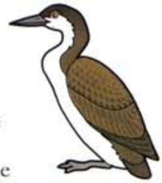


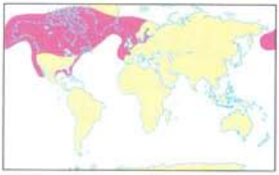
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family GAVIIDAE	Species *Gavia immer*	Length 36 in (91 cm)

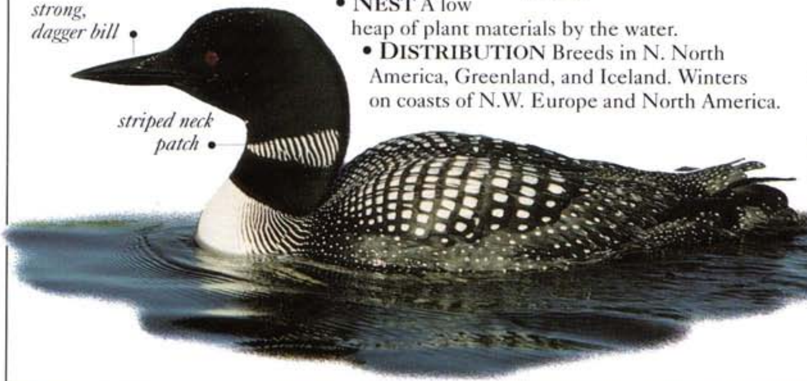
COMMON LOON

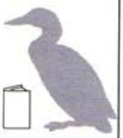
This bird is easily detected in its northern breeding grounds, where its wailing, laughing calls echo across the freshwater lakes on whose shores and islands it nests. Head and body are streamlined for chasing fish underwater, but the bird walks clumsily when it comes ashore to nest.


WINTER


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A low heap of plant materials by the water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. North America, Greenland, and Iceland. Winters on coasts of N.W. Europe and North America.





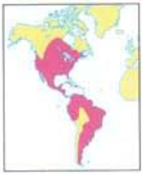
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ▁ ≋	Migration Migrant

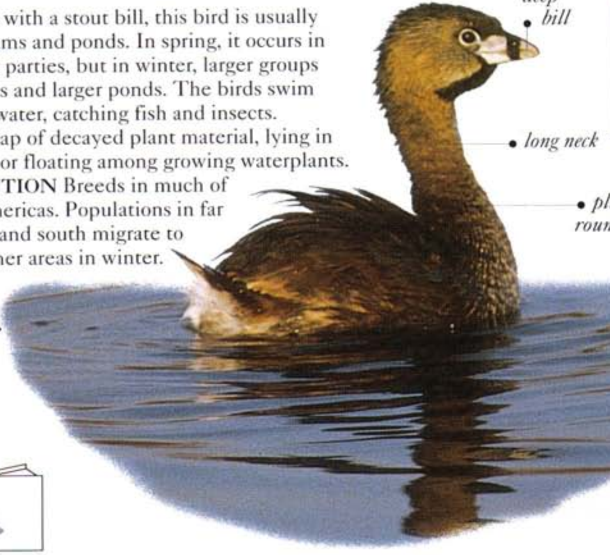
Family PODICIPEDIDAE	Species *Podilymbus podiceps*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

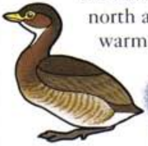
PIED-BILLED GREBE

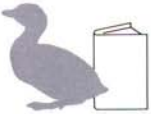
A small grebe with a stout bill, this bird is usually found on streams and ponds. In spring, it occurs in pairs or family parties, but in winter, larger groups gather on lakes and larger ponds. The birds swim rapidly underwater, catching fish and insects.

- **NEST** A heap of decayed plant material, lying in shallow water or floating among growing waterplants.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of the Americas. Populations in far north and south migrate to warmer areas in winter.


DISTRIBUTION




WINTER



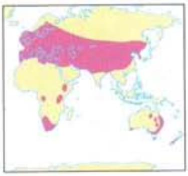
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Partial migrant

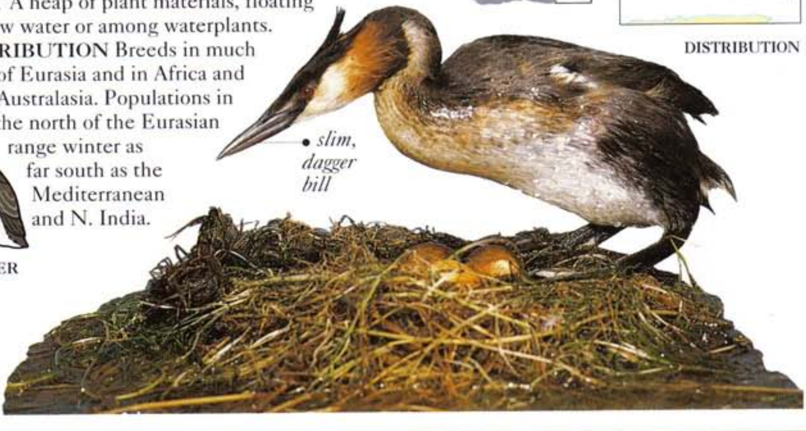
Family PODICIPEDIDAE	Species *Podiceps cristatus*	Length 19 in (48 cm)

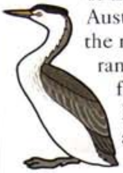
GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Ornamented with crests on their crowns and chestnut "tippets" on the sides of their heads, pairs of this species display together on lakes and rivers. The birds hunt for fish, insects, and other aquatic animals underwater.

- **NEST** A heap of plant materials, floating in shallow water or among waterplants.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Eurasia and in Africa and Australasia. Populations in the north of the Eurasian range winter as far south as the Mediterranean and N. India.


DISTRIBUTION

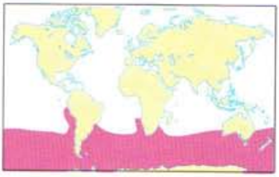



WINTER

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

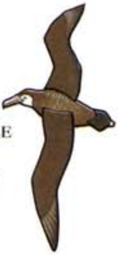
Family DIOMEDEIDAE	Species *Diomedea exulans*	Length 53 in (135 cm)

WANDERING ALBATROSS

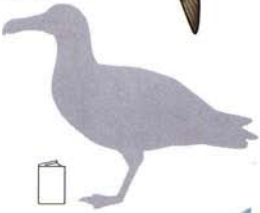


DISTRIBUTION

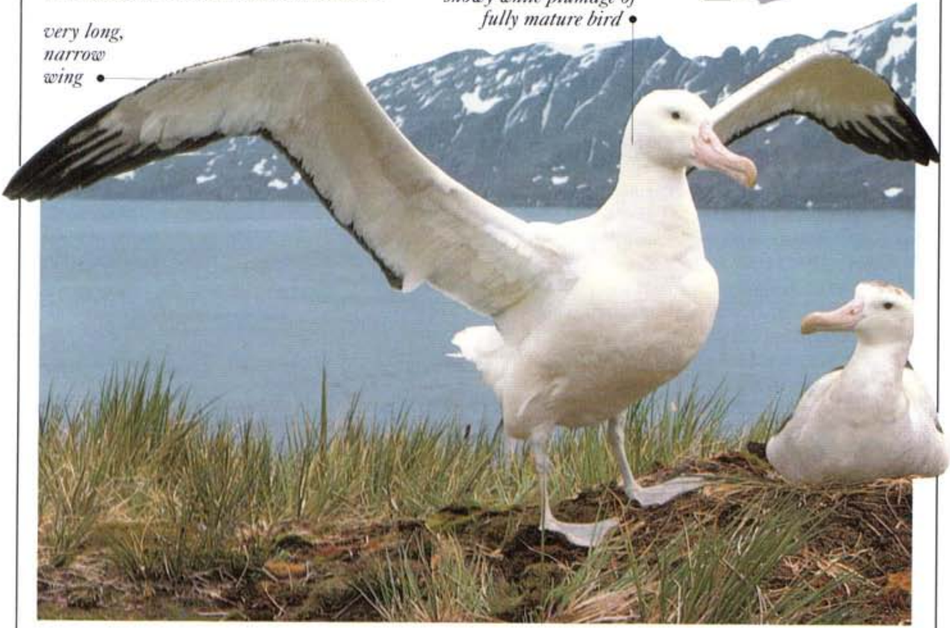
This gigantic seabird has long, narrow wings with a span of some 9 ft 9 in (3 m). It flies effortlessly over the southern oceans, where strong winds and gales are usual. Saving energy by soaring on the wind, it often travels for dozens, or even hundreds, of miles while prospecting for a good food source. A typical feeding site would be an area of water in which upward currents bring nutrients to surface waters. The bird feeds mainly at night, reaching down from the surface for prey, or on rare occasions making shallow dives. Squid and other cephalopods are the main food. During the night, these and other marine animals rise to the surface. The albatross stores food as an oily liquid in its stomach, to be either digested later or regurgitated for its young. Wandering Albatrosses nest in small colonies on the exposed tops and slopes of small, oceanic islands from which they can easily launch themselves off into the wind. Courting adults display to one another by spreading their wings, waving their heads, and rapping their bills together, amid frequent, braying calls. Pairs thus formed stay together for life. The single egg is incubated for 11 weeks by both parents in turn. The young bird is fed on fish and regurgitated oil for up to ten months, before it flies. Breeding normally takes place every two years. The young bird spends its first ten years at sea until it is mature enough to breed. By then its plumage will have changed gradually, through a series of molts, from chocolate brown to mainly white. The birds live on average for about 30 years.



JUVENILE



- **NEST** A large, drum-shaped mound scraped together out of earth and plant materials, with a small hollow in the top.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Oceans and islands surrounding Antarctica, and coasts of the southern continents.



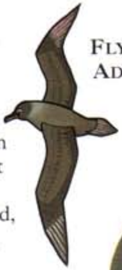
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family DIOMEDEIDAE	Species *Phoebetria palpebrata*	Length 34 in (85 cm)

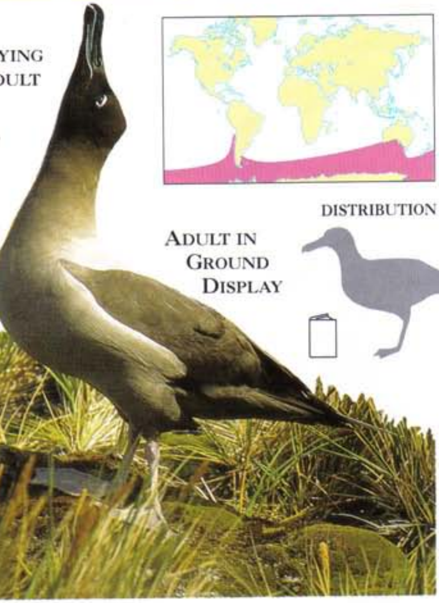
LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS

Three features identify this small albatross: its plumage is mostly dark, its back is pale gray, and, when seen in flight, its tail forms a perfect wedge shape. It glides for long distances with spread wings. To feed, it floats on the sea and catches fish, squid, and crustaceans. Courtship behavior includes paired flights and face-to-face ground displays in which the white eye crescent and bill stripe are shown off. The birds nest in scattered pairs on ledges of steep slopes on islands in the southern oceans.

- **NEST** A tall mound scraped together out of soil and plant materials, with a deep, cupped hollow on the top.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Oceans and islands around Antarctica and the southern coasts of South America, Australia, and New Zealand.



FLYING ADULT



ADULT IN GROUND DISPLAY

DISTRIBUTION

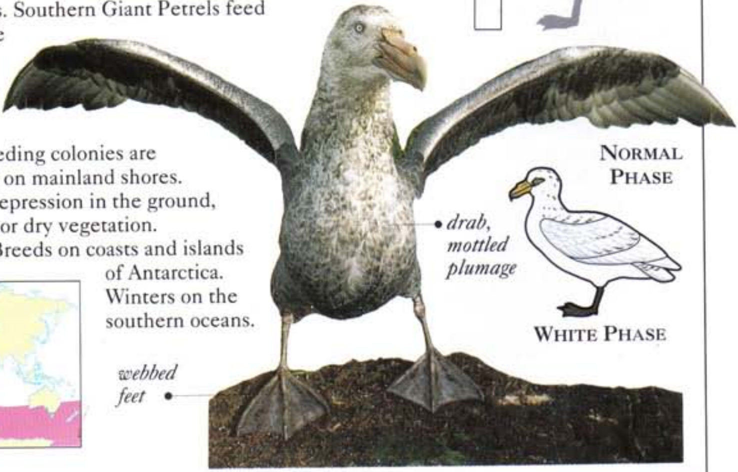
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PROCELLARIIDAE	Species *Macronectes giganteus*	Length 37 in (95 cm)

SOUTHERN GIANT PETREL

A heavy, albatross-size petrel, this bird looks slightly humpbacked in flight. On land, it walks with far greater agility than other petrels, which creep on lowered legs. Southern Giant Petrels feed both at sea and on the shore. Birds are seen fighting over carrion, such as a beached whale, or killing smaller seabirds. Breeding colonies are situated on islands or on mainland shores.

- **NEST** A shallow depression in the ground, bordered by pebbles or dry vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coasts and islands of Antarctica. Winters on the southern oceans.

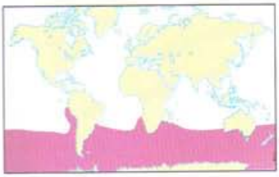


NORMAL PHASE

drab, mottled plumage

webbed feet

WHITE PHASE



DISTRIBUTION

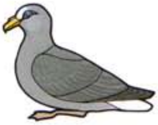
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PROCELLARIIDAE	Species *Fulmarus glacialis*	Length 18½ in (47 cm)

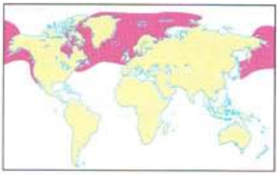
NORTHERN FULMAR

A stout-bodied seabird with a rounded head and thick bill, this species occurs in color phases (*see p. 13*) from gray-and-white to dark blue-gray. It flies strongly, alternating a few quick wingbeats with a glide on stiffly spread wings. When feeding, it catches fish at the sea surface or dives to depths up to several feet, taking small animals drifting in the plankton. Flocks also gather around fishing boats for offal. Fulmars nest on coastal cliffs, singly or in noisy colonies.

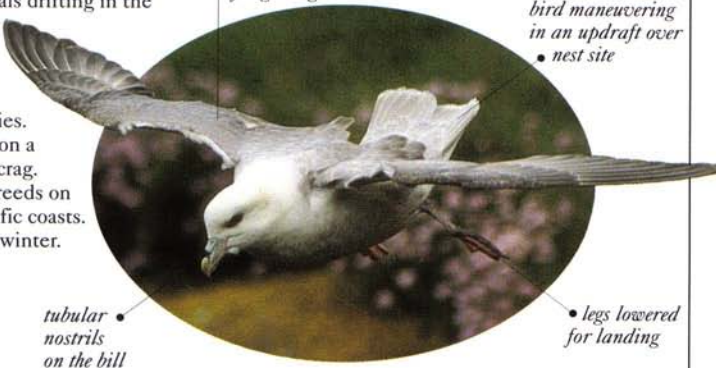
- **NEST** Eggs are laid on a bare ledge on a cliff or crag.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on N. Atlantic and N. Pacific coasts. Disperses out to sea in winter.



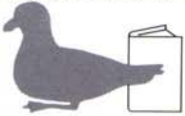
DARK PHASE



DISTRIBUTION



wings held level for gliding
bird maneuvering in an updraft over nest site
tubular nostrils on the bill
legs lowered for landing



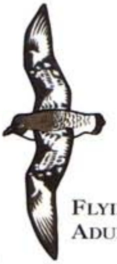
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ⛰ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PROCELLARIIDAE	Species *Daption capense*	Length 15½ in (39 cm)

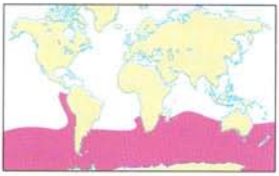
CAPE PETREL

With its checkered plumage, this seabird was likened to a pigeon by seamen aboard the whaling vessels around which it flocked: hence its traditional name, the Cape Pigeon. Its flight pattern consists of rapid wingbeats alternating with stiff-winged glides. To feed, it swims and reaches down or dives for small fish and other animals in the plankton. Cape Petrels breed in small groups or colonies on shores and islands.

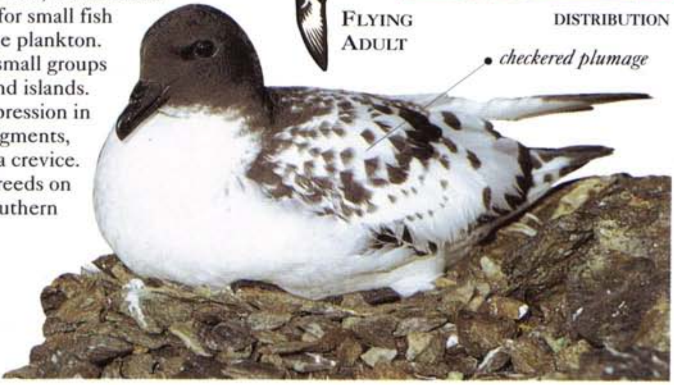
- **NEST** A shallow depression in a layer of loose rock fragments, on a rocky ledge, or in a crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on islands and coasts of southern continents. Winters on the southern oceans.



FLYING ADULT



DISTRIBUTION



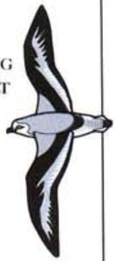
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PROCELLARIIDAE	Species *Pterodroma cookii*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

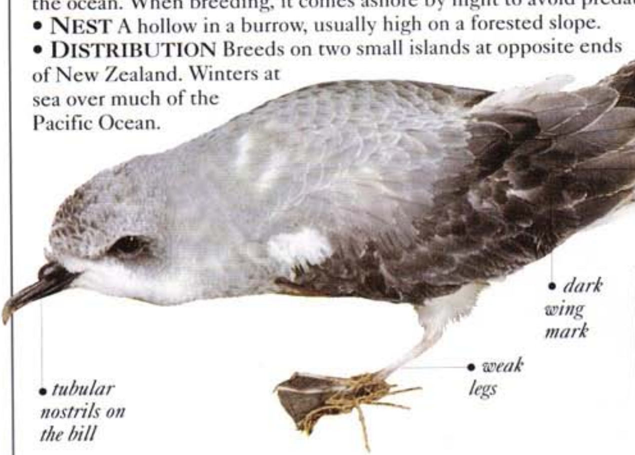
COOK'S PETREL

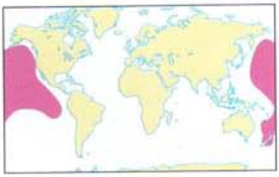
Seen in fast, erratic flight over the ocean, this petrel is recognized by its bold wing markings. It floats on the sea to feed, snatching up small drifting animal life from the plankton. From a tiny breeding range, it journeys extensively over the ocean. When breeding, it comes ashore by night to avoid predators.

- **NEST** A hollow in a burrow, usually high on a forested slope.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on two small islands at opposite ends of New Zealand. Winters at sea over much of the Pacific Ocean.



FLYING ADULT





DISTRIBUTION

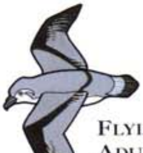
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PROCELLARIIDAE	Species *Pachyptila turtur*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

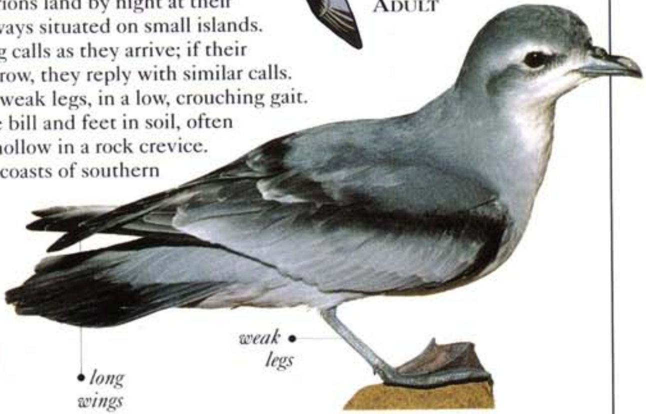
FAIRY PRION

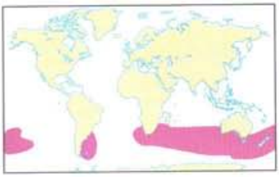
This small petrel flies over the ocean for much of its life. It feeds in flocks by night, skimming the sea surface with its bill to scoop up small crustaceans, squid, and other animals. The bill is equipped with fine plates (lamellae) that filter these animals from the water. Fairy Prions land by night at their breeding colonies, which are always situated on small islands. Incoming birds utter soft, cooing calls as they arrive; if their breeding partners are in the burrow, they reply with similar calls. On land, they walk clumsily on weak legs, in a low, crouching gait.

- **NEST** A burrow dug with the bill and feet in soil, often hidden among vegetation, or a hollow in a rock crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coasts of southern continents. Winters at sea.



FLYING ADULT





DISTRIBUTION

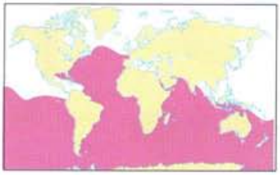
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family HYDROBATIDAE	Species *Oceanites oceanicus*	Length 6¼ in (17 cm)

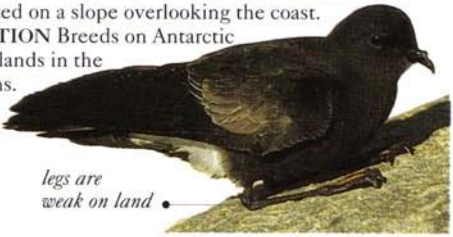
Wilson's Storm-Petrel

This sparrow-size seabird flutters across the oceans with its legs dangling and often pattering along the sea surface. It feeds by picking tiny crustaceans, fish, and mollusks from the water.

- **NEST** A hollow in a burrow, in a colony located on a slope overlooking the coast.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on Antarctic coast and on islands in the southern oceans. Winters far out at sea.



DISTRIBUTION



legs are weak on land

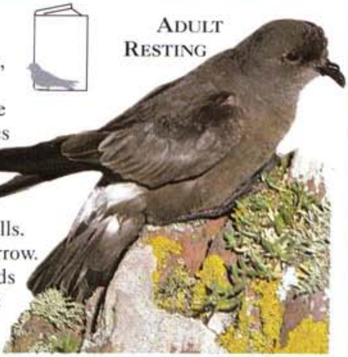
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family HYDROBATIDAE	Species *Hydrobates pelagicus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

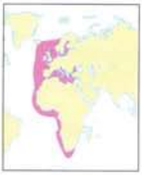
European Storm-Petrel

A small, dark seabird with a white rump and fluttering flight, this species flies low over the water, often pattering with its feet on the surface. It feeds on small animals picked from the plankton and follows fishing boats for offal. Breeding colonies are on offshore islands; the birds visit their nest burrows at night, uttering harsh, churring calls.

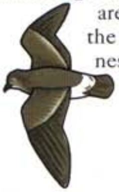
- **NEST** A hollow in a burrow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on islands in N.E. Atlantic and in W. Mediterranean. Winters far out at sea.



ADULT RESTING



DISTRIBUTION



FLYING ADULT

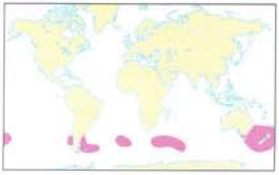
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PELECANOIDIDAE	Species *Pelecanoides urinatrix*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

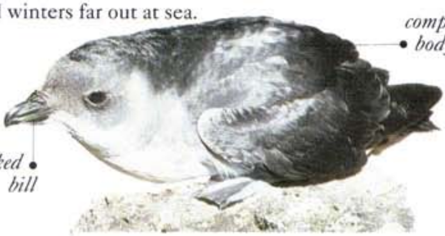
Common Diving-Petrel

This seabird flies over the ocean, plunging through waves to pick up marine animals.

- **NEST** A hollow at the end of a burrow in a colony on a slope beside the coast.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on islands and mainland coasts of the southern oceans except on Antarctica. Disperses and winters far out at sea.

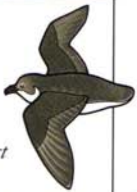


DISTRIBUTION



compact body

hooked bill



FLYING ADULT

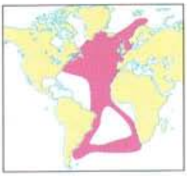
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PROCELLARIIDAE	Species *Puffinus puffinus*	Length 13½ in (34 cm)

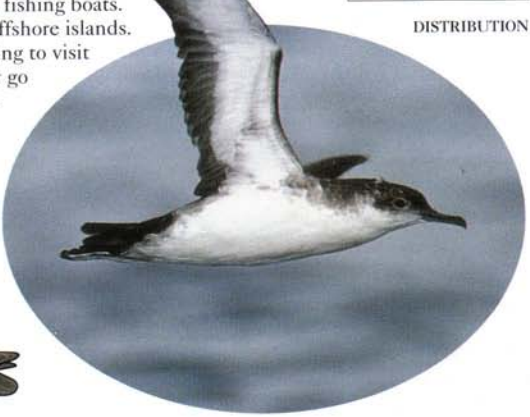
MANX SHEARWATER

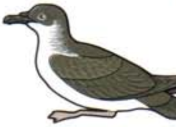
A dark-backed seabird with a white underside, the Manx Shearwater flies low over the sea, making rapid, tilting glides alternating with quick wingbeats. The shearwater feeds at the surface or in shallow plunge-dives, taking small fish, squid, crustaceans, and offal from fishing boats. Nesting colonies are located on hilly offshore islands. Flocks are seen floating offshore, waiting to visit their nests after dark. They eventually go ashore, amid a chorus of crowing calls.

- **NEST** A hollow, sometimes lined with grass, in a burrow or occasionally in a rock crevice or cavity.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds along coasts of N. Atlantic Ocean. Winters in mid-ocean, as far south as S. Atlantic Ocean.



DISTRIBUTION





ADULT

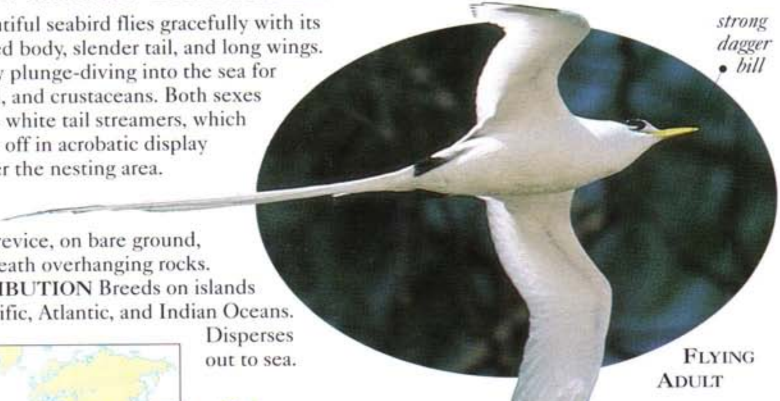
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

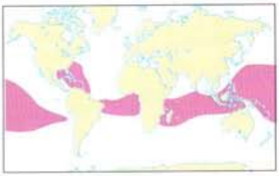
Family PHAETHONTIDAE	Species *Phaethon lepturus*	Length 31 in (80 cm)

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD

This beautiful seabird flies gracefully with its streamlined body, slender tail, and long wings. It feeds by plunge-diving into the sea for fish, squid, and crustaceans. Both sexes have long, white tail streamers, which they show off in acrobatic display flights over the nesting area.

- **NEST** Eggs are laid in a crevice, on bare ground, or underneath overhanging rocks.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on islands in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. Disperses out to sea.





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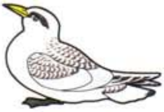


JUVENILE

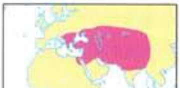
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PELECANIDAE	Species *Pelecanus crispus*	Length 67 in (170 cm)

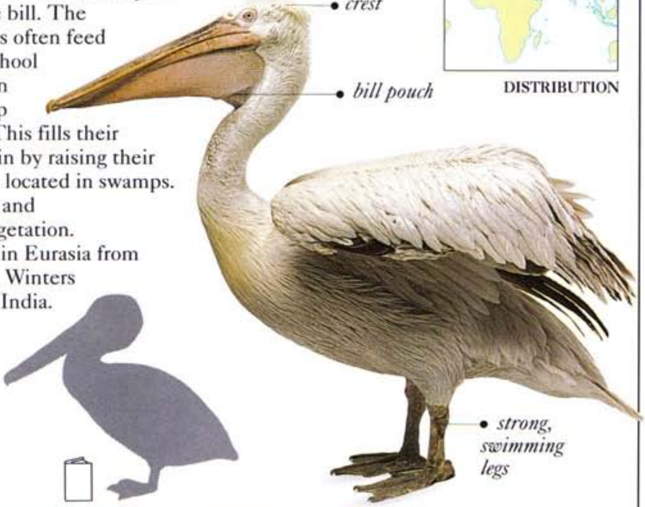
DALMATIAN PELICAN

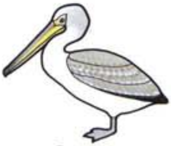
The distinctive features of this pelican are white plumage with blackish wing tips, a short crest, and a pink or orange pouch beneath the bill. The species is sociable, and flocks often feed cooperatively by driving a school of fish into the shallows, then reaching underwater to scoop up fish and water together. This fills their bill pouches, which they drain by raising their heads. Breeding colonies are located in swamps.

- **NEST** A platform of grass and twigs on a floating mat of vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia from the Adriatic Sea to C. China. Winters as far south as Egypt and N. India.



DISTRIBUTION





JUVENILE

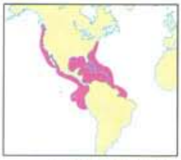
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PELECANIDAE	Species *Pelecanus occidentalis*	Length 45 in (115 cm)

BROWN PELICAN

This is one of two species of pelican that plunge-dive for fish, hurtling down from the air with spread wings that are stretched back as the bird hits the water. The birds also occasionally catch fish while swimming on the surface. The Brown Pelican is common along sea coasts and estuaries, and is often tame and trusting. Nest colonies are usually located on coastal islands.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with feathers and debris; or a mound of mixed materials; or a stick platform in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Pacific coast of the Americas from W. Canada to N. Peru, and Atlantic coast from N. USA to N. Brazil. Northern populations migrate southward within this range.



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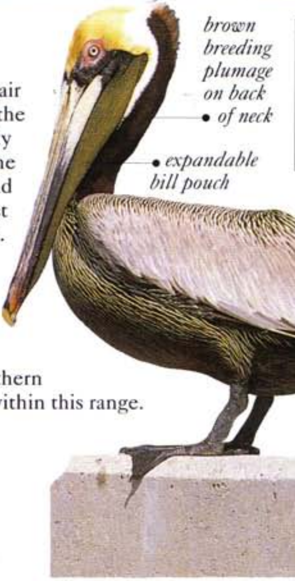
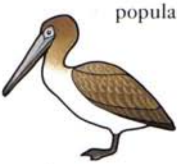
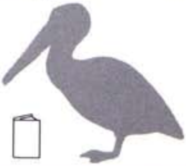




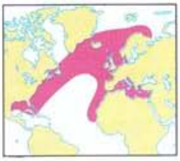
JUVENILE



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

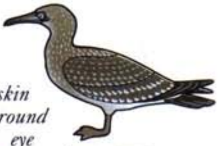
Family SULIDAE	Species *Morus bassanus*	Length 31 in (80 cm)

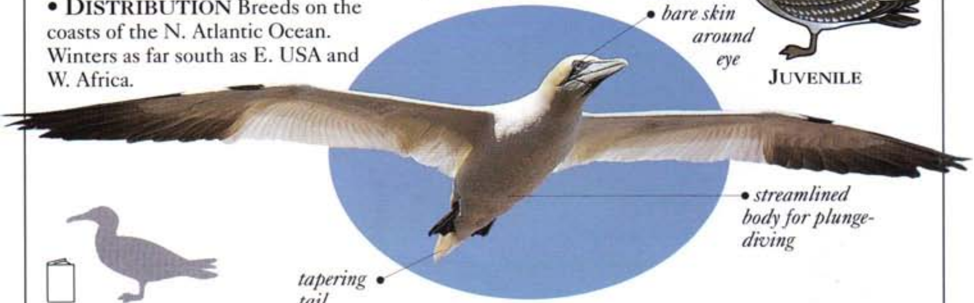
NORTHERN GANNET


DISTRIBUTION

This powerful and highly streamlined seabird is adapted for plunge-diving for fish. Gannets sometimes drop vertically into the sea, from heights as great as 148 ft (45 m). They often feed in flocks and catch mainly schooling fish, such as herrings and mackerel. Gannets fly strongly, alternately flapping and gliding, often in groups in single file. They nest in gannetries (colonies) on raised slopes and cliff tops, or on broad cliff ledges. Gannets are aggressive and the nests are spaced by a distance corresponding to the bill reach of two sitting birds. Their calls are deep and harsh. Juveniles take five annual molts to attain adult plumage.

- **NEST** A mound of seaweed and debris, on the ground or on a ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on the coasts of the N. Atlantic Ocean. Winters as far south as E. USA and W. Africa.


JUVENILE

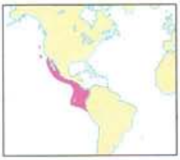


Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

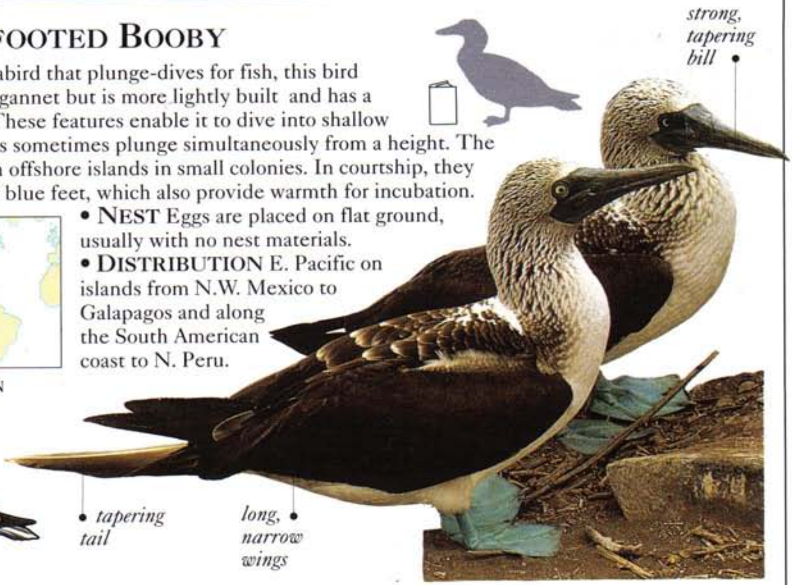
Family SULIDAE	Species *Sula nebouxii*	Length 32 in (81 cm)

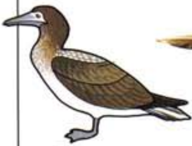
BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY

A coastal seabird that plunge-dives for fish, this bird resembles a gannet but is more lightly built and has a longer tail. These features enable it to dive into shallow water. Flocks sometimes plunge simultaneously from a height. The birds nest on offshore islands in small colonies. In courtship, they display their blue feet, which also provide warmth for incubation.


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** Eggs are placed on flat ground, usually with no nest materials.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Pacific on islands from N.W. Mexico to Galapagos and along the South American coast to N. Peru.




JUVENILE

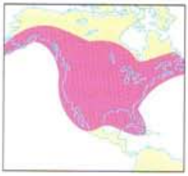
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family PHALACROCORACIDAE
Species *Phalacrocorax auritus*
Length 31 in (80 cm)

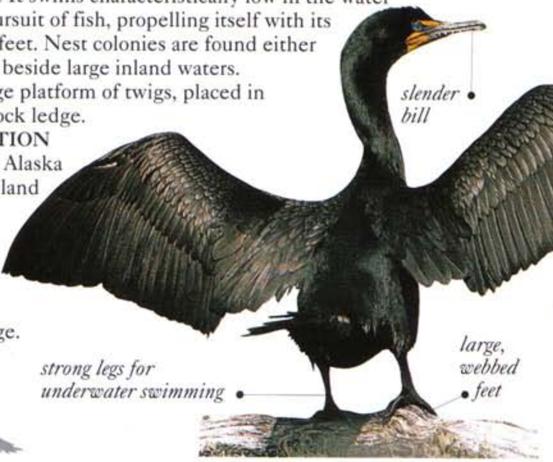
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

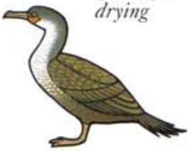
The two crests crossing the head of this large, dark cormorant are normally barely visible, raised only for short periods when the birds display. The Double-crested Cormorant is found as often on rivers and freshwater lakes as on the coast. It swims characteristically low in the water and dives in pursuit of fish, propelling itself with its large, webbed feet. Nest colonies are found either on the coast or beside large inland waters.

- **NEST** A large platform of twigs, placed in a tree or on a rock ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from S. Alaska and Newfoundland to C. Mexico and Cuba. Northern populations migrate south within this range.



DISTRIBUTION


slender bill
wings spread for drying
large, webbed feet
strong legs for underwater swimming



JUVENILE

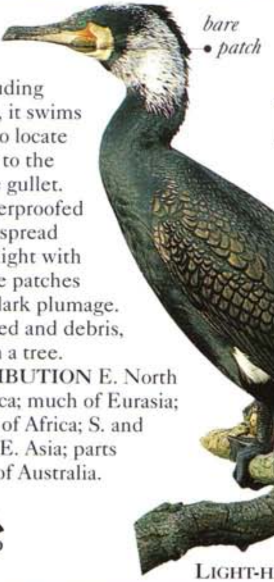
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋
Migration Partial migrant

Family PHALACROCORACIDAE
Species *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Length 36 in (91 cm)

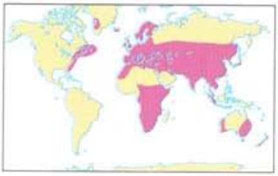
GREAT CORMORANT

This large cormorant is found on any large stretch of water in its worldwide distribution, including lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters. To feed, it swims low in the water, often peering under the surface to locate fish, and dives to pursue its prey. Fish are brought to the surface to be gulped down in the cormorant's wide gullet. Like other cormorants, this species has poorly waterproofed plumage and is often seen standing with its wings spread out to dry. In the air, it travels in steady, flapping flight with occasional glides. When breeding, birds have white patches on the flanks and head and a glossy sheen on the dark plumage.

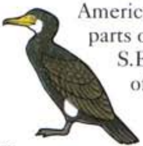
- **NEST** A bulky, cup-shaped nest made of seaweed and debris, placed on a flat rock or cliff ledge; or a stick nest in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. North America; much of Eurasia; parts of Africa; S. and S.E. Asia; parts of Australia.



LIGHT-HEADED FORM



DISTRIBUTION



DARK-HEADED FORM

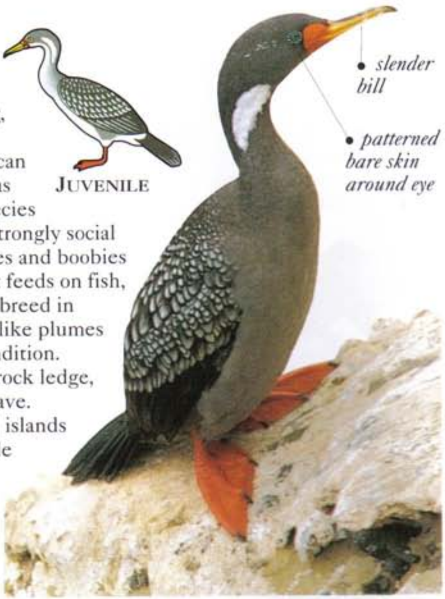
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋
Migration Partial migrant

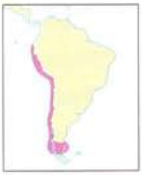
Family PHALACROCORACIDAE	Species *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*	Length 30 in (75 cm)

RED-LEGGED CORMORANT

This slender, narrow-billed cormorant has a star pattern around the eye and fine, white spotting on its back and wings. When swimming, however, its wet plumage makes the bird look black, except for the white patch on its neck. It can be identified by its bright red legs, which show as it arches its body to plunge underwater. The species occurs entirely on coastal waters. Although not strongly social with its own kind, it joins other cormorant species and boobies in mixed flocks that fish and rest communally. It feeds on fish, squid, and crustaceans. Red-legged Cormorants breed in pairs or in small colonies, developing white, hairlike plumes among their head feathers when in breeding condition.

- **NEST** A low mound of seaweed, placed on a rock ledge, usually in the shelter of a sea cave.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coast and islands of South America on Pacific side from Peru to S. Chile, around southern tip of South America to Atlantic coast of Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

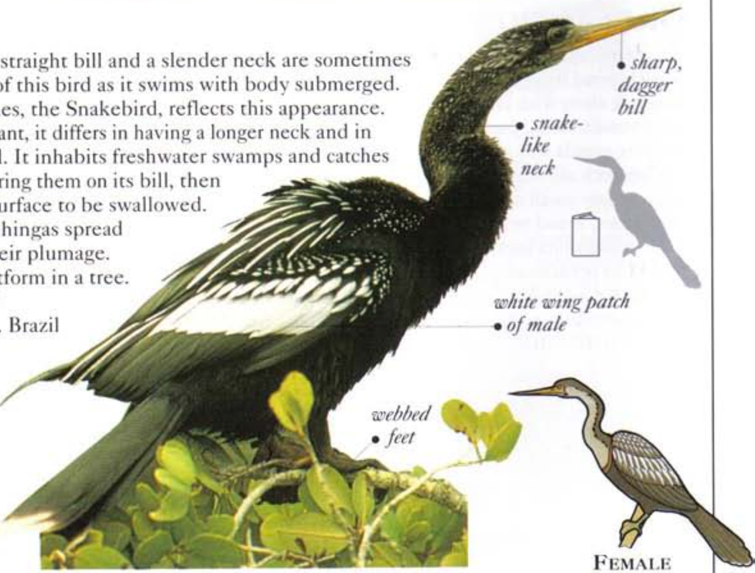
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

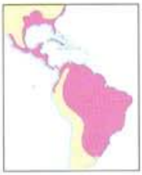
Family ANHINGIDAE	Species *Anhinga anhinga*	Length 35 in (90 cm)

ANHINGA

A small head with a straight bill and a slender neck are sometimes all that can be seen of this bird as it swims with body submerged. One of its other names, the Snakebird, reflects this appearance. Resembling a cormorant, it differs in having a longer neck and in lacking a hooked bill. It inhabits freshwater swamps and catches fish underwater, spearing them on its bill, then taking them to the surface to be swallowed. Like cormorants, Anhingas spread their wings to dry their plumage.

- **NEST** A stick platform in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.E. USA to S. Brazil and N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

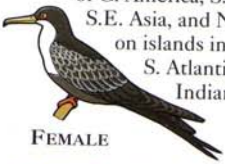
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family FREGATIDAE	Species *Fregata minor*	Length 39 in (100 cm)

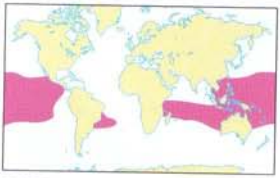
GREAT FRIGATEBIRD

This bird is often seen soaring and gliding on the winds over coast and sea, with long wings extended. It feeds in the air, either swooping to snatch fish from the sea or piratically attacking other seabirds and forcing them to drop or disgorge their food for its own consumption. When breeding, male Great Frigatebirds inflate their red throat sacs in display.

- **NEST** A frail platform of twigs, placed in a low bush or tree, usually on an island.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds along coastlines of C. America, S. Brazil, E. Africa, S.E. Asia, and N. Australia, and on islands in the Pacific, S. Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.



FEMALE



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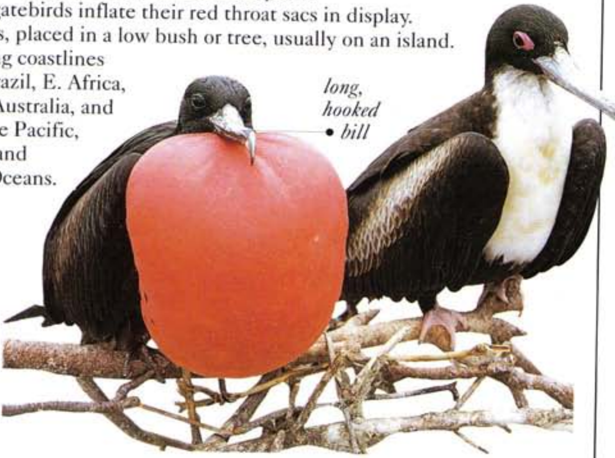


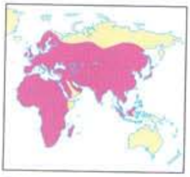
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ▲	Migration Partial migrant

Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Ardea cinerea*	Length 38 in (97 cm)

GRAY HERON

The large, gray figure of this heron, resting with its head hunched on its shoulders or standing alert, with neck outstretched, is a regular sight beside lakes, ponds, rivers, or marshes. To feed, it either stands still or wades slowly and watchfully, its angled neck allowing the head to dart forward to seize a fish or any small animal. The heron flies with slow beats of its large, broad wings, its head tucked back on its shoulders and its legs extended. It is usually silent but occasionally utters a harsh call.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks, to which more material is added each year.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia, Africa, and Asia.



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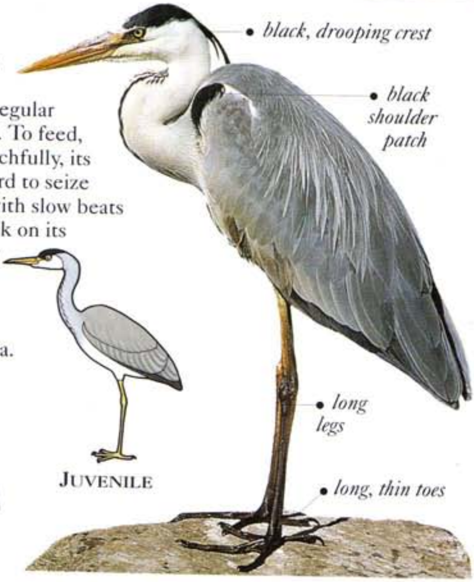


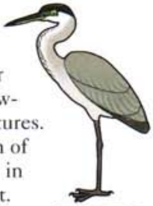
JUVENILE

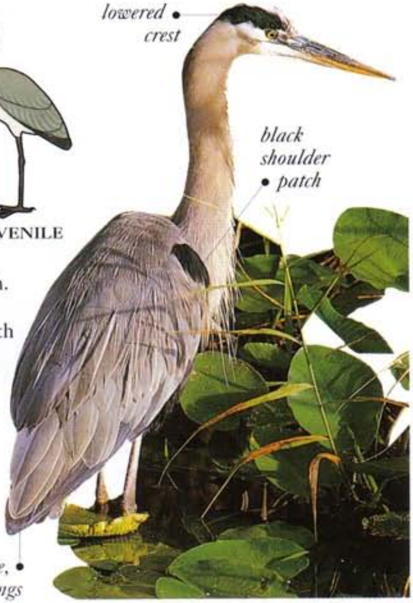
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Ardea herodias*	Length 50 in (127 cm)

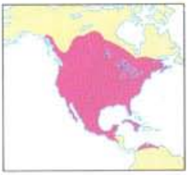
GREAT BLUE HERON

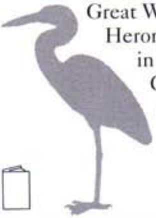
The largest of the American herons, this bird occurs in both freshwater and saltwater habitats, hunting in marshes and still or slow-flowing water for fish, frogs, and other creatures. Sometimes it wades up to its belly in search of fish. It also hunts on dry land, stalking prey in open habitats or standing still to watch for it. Mice, gophers, and other animals are taken.





- **NEST** A shallow platform made of sticks, in a colony in trees, bushes, or at ground level in a marsh.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of North and Central America. Northern populations migrate south for the winter, some traveling as far as Venezuela.
- **REMARK** A pure white form, known as the Great White Heron, occurs in the Caribbean and in S.E. USA.





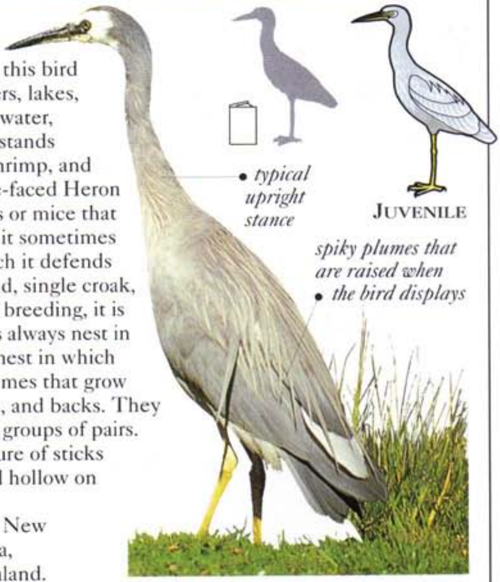
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

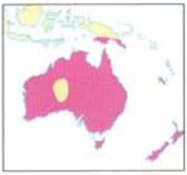
Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Egretta novaehollandiae*	Length 26 in (65 cm)

WHITE-FACED HERON

A slender heron, often standing very upright, this bird occurs on offshore reefs, coastal mudflats, rivers, lakes, marshes, and dry grassland. On dry land or in water, it walks slowly, stopping to stab at its prey, or stands and watches for it. Prey includes fish, frogs, shrimp, and sometimes lizards and small birds. The White-faced Heron also benefits from the plagues of grasshoppers or mice that occur in parts of its range. Like many herons, it sometimes establishes a temporary feeding territory, which it defends against others of its kind. Its usual call is a loud, single croak, but it also utters low, guttural notes. When not breeding, it is sometimes found in open landscapes, but pairs always nest in trees. Breeding birds perform displays at the nest in which they raise the spiky plumes that grow from their heads, necks, and backs. They nest in pairs or in loose groups of pairs.

- **NEST** A large structure of sticks and twigs with a central hollow on top, situated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. New Guinea, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand.

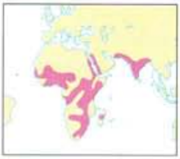




Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋ ψ≋ ▁	Migration Non-migrant

Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Ardea goliath*	Length 59 in (150 cm)

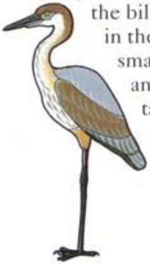
GOLIATH HERON



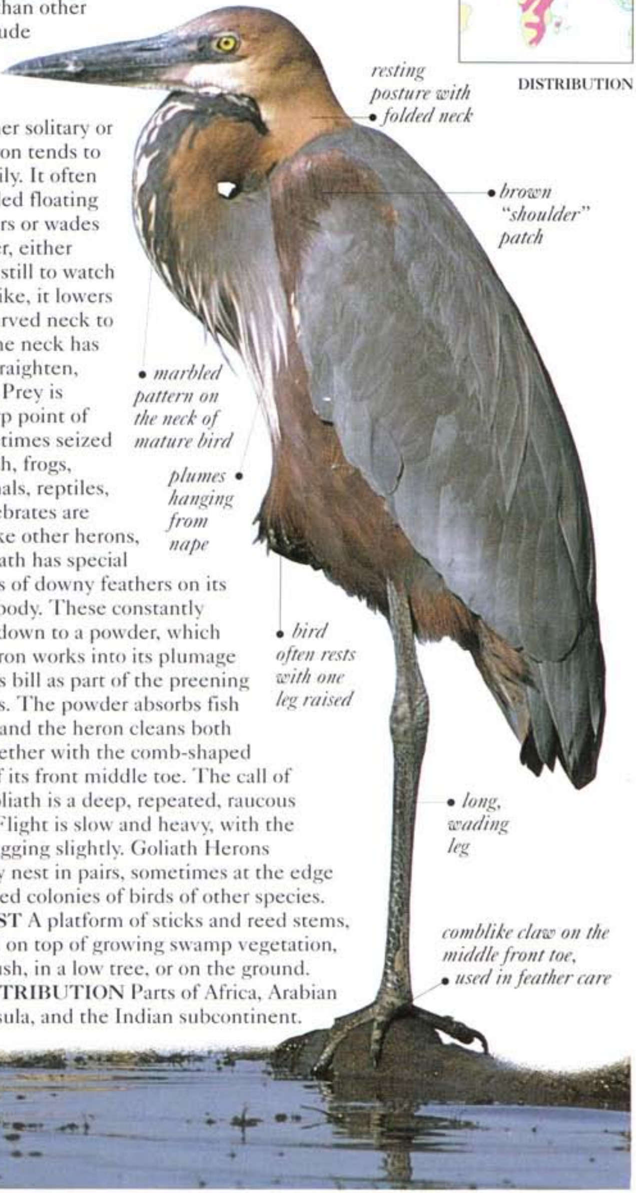
DISTRIBUTION

This is the tallest and largest heron in the world. It occurs at the edges of large lakes and swamps, where it can wade deeper than other herons. Other habitats include mudflats, mangrove swamps, rivers, and papyrus swamps. When not breeding, birds are either solitary or live in pairs. A Goliath Heron tends to fish over the same areas daily. It often hunts among thickly crowded floating vegetation on tropical waters or wades up to its belly in open water, either stalking slowly or standing still to watch for prey. When about to strike, it lowers its body, head, and back-curved neck to crouch near water level. The neck has a kink that can suddenly straighten, shooting the head forward. Prey is mostly impaled on the sharp point of the bill or sometimes seized in the bill. Fish, frogs, small mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates are taken. Like other herons, the Goliath has special patches of downy feathers on its lower body. These constantly break down to a powder, which the heron works into its plumage with its bill as part of the preening process. The powder absorbs fish slime, and the heron cleans both off together with the comb-shaped claw of its front middle toe. The call of the Goliath is a deep, repeated, raucous note. Flight is slow and heavy, with the legs sagging slightly. Goliath Herons usually nest in pairs, sometimes at the edge of mixed colonies of birds of other species.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks and reed stems, placed on top of growing swamp vegetation, in a bush, in a low tree, or on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa, Arabian Peninsula, and the Indian subcontinent.



JUVENILE


resting posture with folded neck
brown "shoulder" patch
marbled pattern on the neck of mature bird
plumes hanging from nape
bird often rests with one leg raised
long, wading leg
comblike claw on the middle front toe, used in feather care

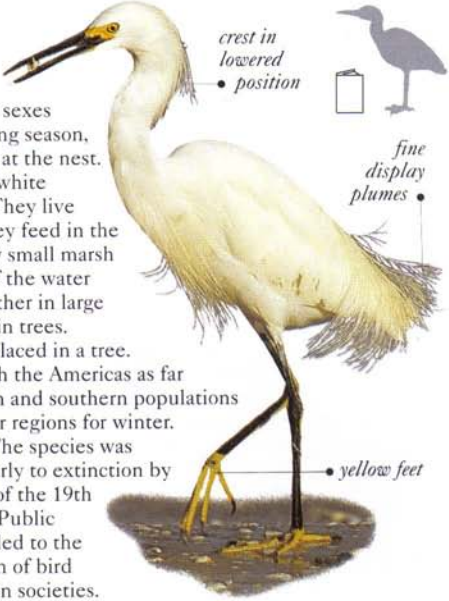
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

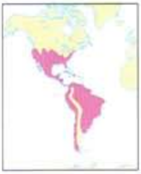
Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Egretta thula*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

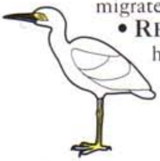
SNOWY EGRET

The pure white plumage of this species and the fine plumes that hang from its head, neck, and back are justly famed for their beauty. Both sexes acquire this decoration at the start of the breeding season, and raise their plumes in display to one another at the nest. At other times, Snowy Egrets are simply small, white herons with black bills and bright yellow feet. They live mainly in marshes, either fresh or saltwater. They feed in the daytime, dashing about in search of fish and any small marsh animals. At times they rake or stir the bottom of the water with their feet to disturb prey. Snowy Egrets gather in large flocks to roost in trees and also nest in colonies in trees.

- **NEST** A platform made of sticks and twigs, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in USA and through the Americas as far as S. Chile. Northern and southern populations migrate to warmer regions for winter.
- **REMARK** The species was hunted nearly to extinction by the end of the 19th century. Public protests led to the formation of bird protection societies.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

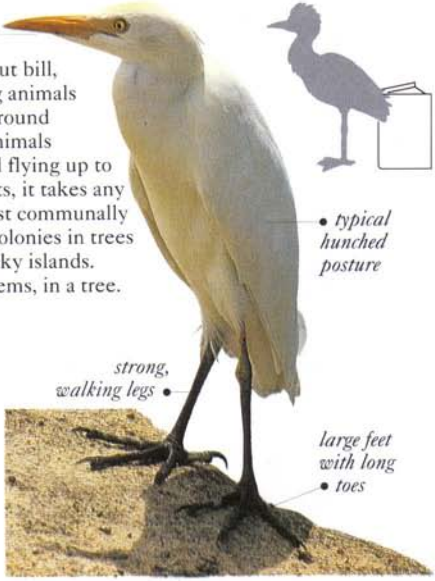
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

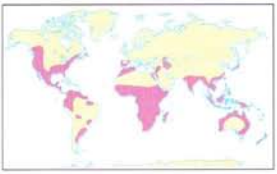
Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Bubulcus ibis*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

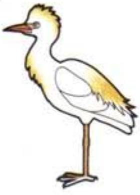
CATTLE EGRET

A small, stocky heron with a short neck and a stout bill, this species specializes in associating with grazing animals in open country. It is often seen walking on the ground in a herd of cattle, catching the insects that the animals disturb with their feet, picking flies off them, and flying up to use them as temporary perches. Apart from insects, it takes any other small animal that it finds. Cattle Egrets roost communally in trees or on the ground near water and nest in colonies in trees or bushes, in reedbeds or other swamps, or on rocky islands.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest of sticks and reed stems, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North and South America, S. Europe, Africa, and Asia to Australia.




DISTRIBUTION


BREEDING PLUMAGE

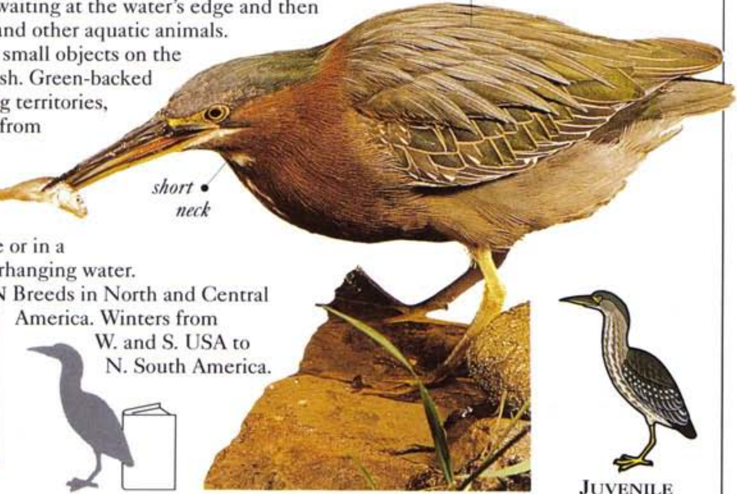
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

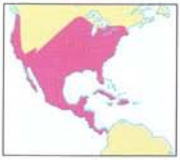
Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Butorides virescens*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

GREEN-BACKED HERON

This small heron is easily overlooked in the dense vegetation in which it lives. A bird of either saltwater or freshwater habitats, it feeds by quietly waiting at the water's edge and then seizing fish, crabs, and other aquatic animals. Sometimes it floats small objects on the water as "bait" for fish. Green-backed Herons hold feeding territories, which they defend from one another.

- **NEST** A thin platform of sticks and reeds, built in a tree or in a bush, beside or overhanging water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North and Central America. Winters from W. and S. USA to N. South America.




DISTRIBUTION

JUVENILE

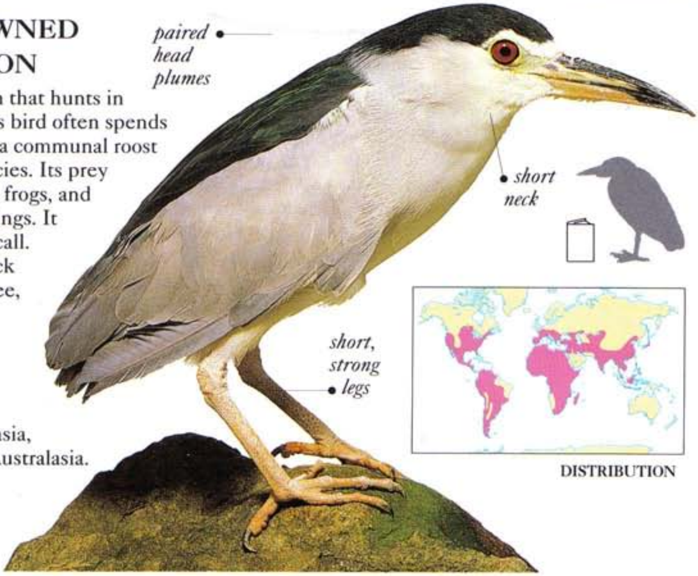
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Nycticorax nycticorax*	Length 26 in (65 cm)

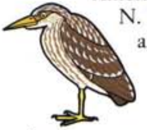
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

A small, stocky heron that hunts in marshes by night, this bird often spends the daylight hours in a communal roost with others of its species. Its prey includes insects, fish, frogs, and sometimes bird nestlings. It has a deep, croaking call.

- **NEST** A flimsy stick platform, built in a tree, bush, or reedbed.
- **DISTRIBUTION** In most of the world except for N. North America, N. Eurasia, and Australasia.



DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

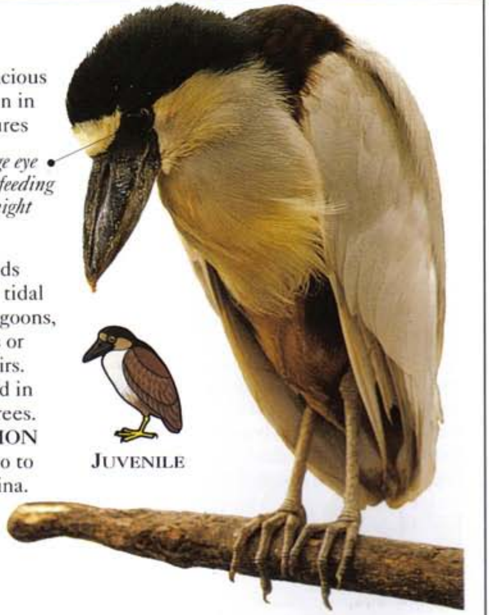
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

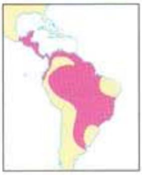
Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Cochlearius cochlearius*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

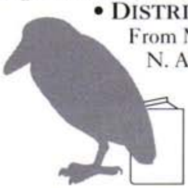
BOAT-BILLED HERON

Looking like a night-heron except for its capacious bill, this bird is adapted for night hunting, even in total darkness. Its prey consists of small creatures such as fish, shrimp, and insects, and the Boat-bill is believed to be able to feel these in the dark with its bill, which is touch sensitive. As soon as contact is made the bill opens, drawing in a current of water and with it the prey. The Boatbill feeds at the edges of mangrove creeks, beside other tidal inlets, and in either fresh or partly saltwater lagoons, lakes, and marshes. It roosts and nests in trees or bushes, either in pairs or in small groups of pairs.

- **NEST** A frail platform made of twigs, placed in mangroves or other swamp trees.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Mexico to N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION



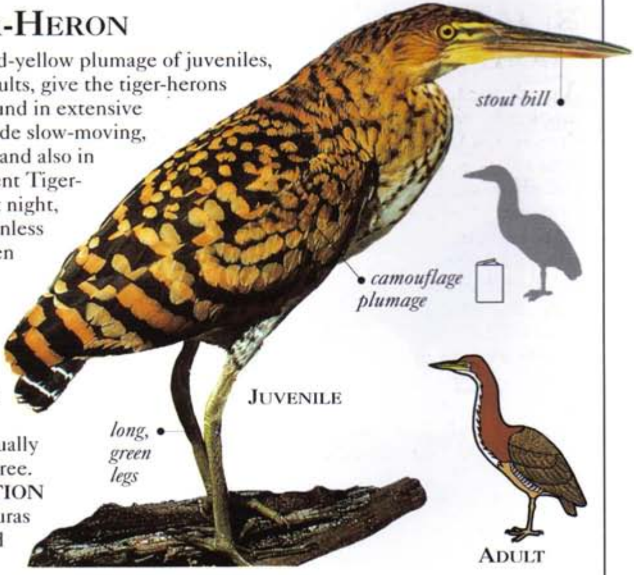
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ⸙≋ 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

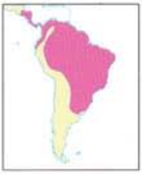
Family ARDEIDAE	Species *Tigrisoma lineatum*	Length 30 in (75 cm)

RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON

The strongly streaked, black-and-yellow plumage of juveniles, as well as the markings of the adults, give the tiger-herons their name. This shy heron is found in extensive tropical rain forest. It occurs beside slow-moving, marshy waters or lowland rivers, and also in swamps and mangroves. Rufescent Tiger-Herons hunt alone and mainly at night, prowling slowly or waiting motionless to catch shrimp and insects. When disturbed, birds usually freeze motionless to escape detection, but if forced to break cover, they take refuge in the trees.

- **NEST** A frail platform of twigs and plant stems, usually built high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Honduras to Paraguay and N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

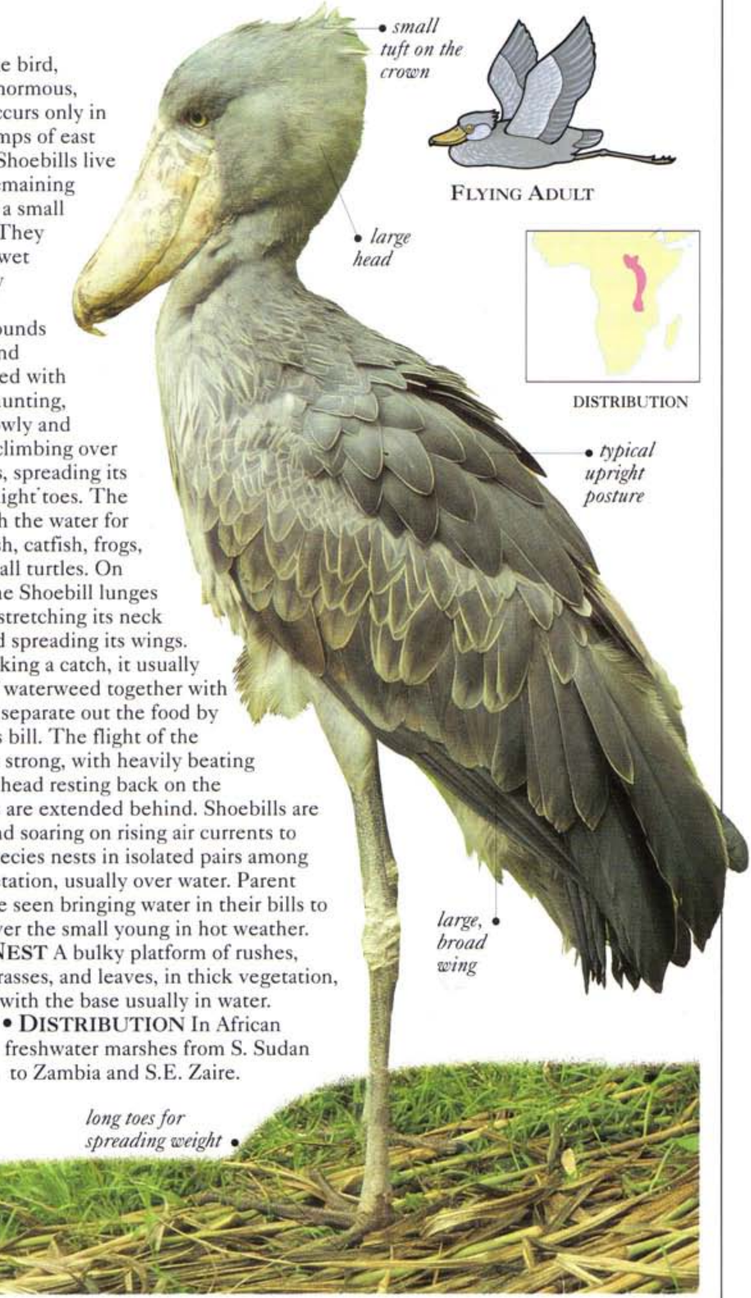
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ⸙≋ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family BALAENICIPITIDAE	Species *Balaeniceps rex*	Length 47 in (120 cm)

SHOEBILL

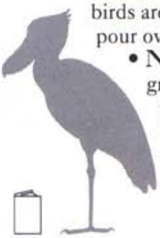
This large, storklike bird, recognized by its enormous, hook-tipped bill, occurs only in the freshwater swamps of east and central Africa. Shoebills live singly or in pairs, remaining most of the time in a small area of marshland. They sometimes feed in wet grassland or shallow water, but their favored hunting grounds are deep marshes and rivers or lakes choked with vegetation. When hunting, a Shoebill walks slowly and deliberately, often climbing over floating waterplants, spreading its weight on long, straight toes. The bird pauses to watch the water for prey such as lungfish, catfish, frogs, water snakes, or small turtles. On sighting a victim, the Shoebill lunges forward and down, stretching its neck and whole body and spreading its wings. If it succeeds in making a catch, it usually also grabs a mass of waterweed together with the prey and has to separate out the food by turning it over in its bill. The flight of the Shoebill is slow but strong, with heavily beating wings and with the head resting back on the shoulders. The legs are extended behind. Shoebills are also seen circling and soaring on rising air currents to gain height. The species nests in isolated pairs among tall vegetation, usually over water. Parent birds are seen bringing water in their bills to pour over the small young in hot weather.

- **NEST** A bulky platform of rushes, grasses, and leaves, in thick vegetation, with the base usually in water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** In African freshwater marshes from S. Sudan to Zambia and S.E. Zaire.


small tuft on the crown
large head
typical upright posture
large, broad wing
long toes for spreading weight

FLYING ADULT

DISTRIBUTION



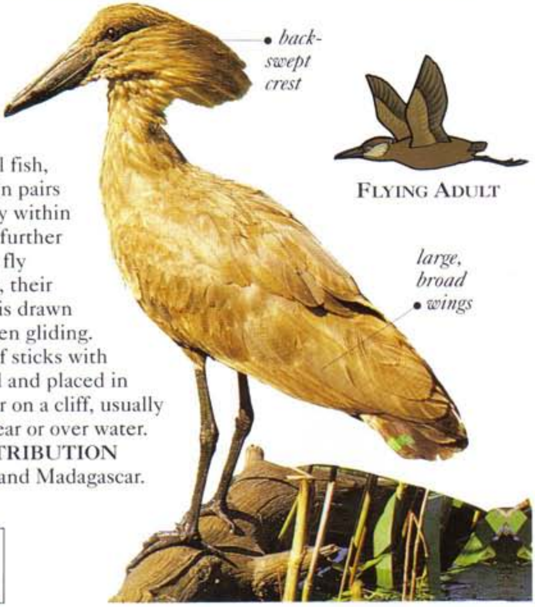
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≈	Migration Non-migrant

Family SCOPIDAE	Species *Scopus umbretta*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

HAMERKOP

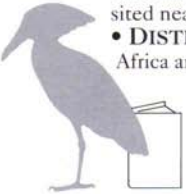
This waterside bird is recognized by the hammerhead shape made by its bill and crest. It feeds in shallow water at the edges of rivers, lakes, and marshes, taking amphibians, small fish, and other aquatic creatures. It occurs in pairs or small family groups that tend to stay within a restricted area, but sometimes roam further afield during dry seasons. Hamerkops fly with a mixture of flapping and gliding, their legs stretching out behind. The neck is drawn back when flapping and extended when gliding.

- **NEST** A huge, oven-shaped mass of sticks with a small front entrance, lined with mud and placed in a tree or on a cliff, usually sited near or over water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa and Madagascar.



FLYING ADULT

DISTRIBUTION



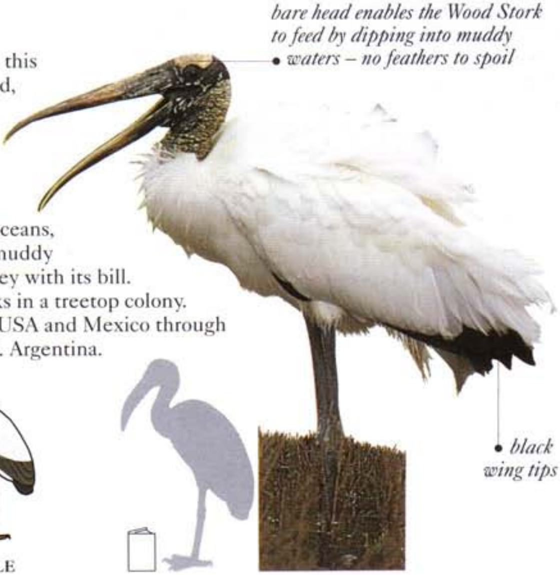
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CICONIIDAE	Species *Mycteria americana*	Length 40 in (102 cm)

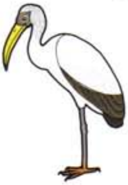
WOOD STORK

A large stork resembling an ibis, this bird frequents wooded marshland, resting and nesting in the trees. It walks sedately and flies with slow, deliberate wingbeats. The Wood Stork hunts in muddy pools, marshes, and wet grassland, feeding on fish, crustaceans, mollusks, frogs, and insects. In muddy water, it can feel and catch its prey with its bill.

- **NEST** A thin platform of sticks in a treetop colony.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.E. USA and Mexico through Central and South America to N. Argentina.


bare head enables the Wood Stork to feed by dipping into muddy waters – no feathers to spoil
black wing tips

DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

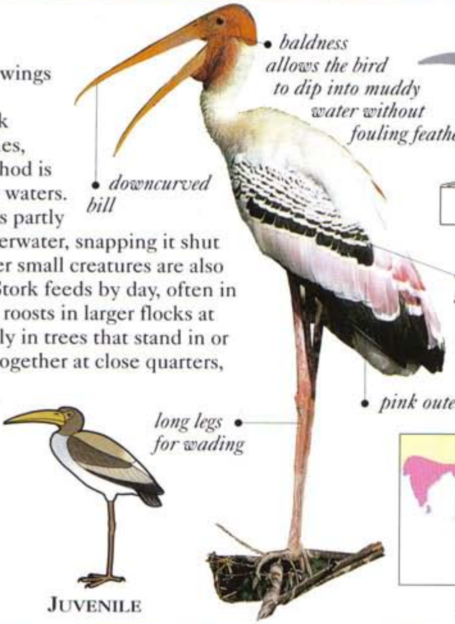
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family **CICONIIDAE**	Species *Mycteria leucocephala*	Length 40 in (102 cm)

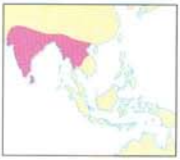
PAINTED STORK

Recognized by pink tints on the wings and back and a finely checkered panel on the inner wing, this stork occurs on freshwater lakes, marshes, and paddy fields. Its feeding method is specially adapted for very muddy waters. When wading, the stork swings its partly opened bill from side to side underwater, snapping it shut if it touches a fish. Frogs and other small creatures are also caught in this way. The Painted Stork feeds by day, often in groups at a good food source, and roosts in larger flocks at night. It nests in colonies, normally in trees that stand in or close to water. Nests are packed together at close quarters, and the site is frequently shared with other stork species as well as egrets, ibises, and cormorants.

- **NEST** A large platform built of sticks, with a shallow hollow at the center, situated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Indian subcontinent, S.W. China, and part of S.E. Asia.



JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

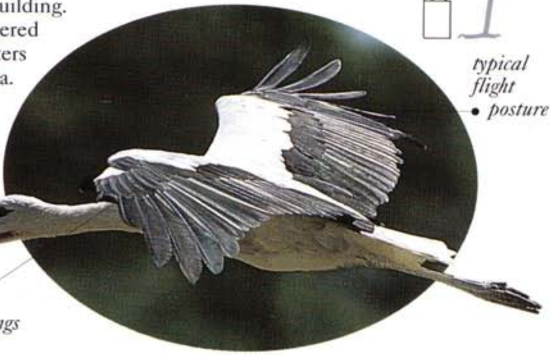
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

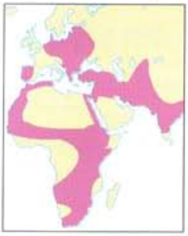
Family **CICONIIDAE**	Species *Ciconia ciconia*	Length 45 in (115 cm)

WHITE STORK

This stork is typically seen wading in shallow water in streams, pools, and marshes, where it hunts frogs and other small creatures. It also feeds in grassland and rice paddies, taking any small prey it finds. The White Stork flies slowly with steady wingbeats and occasional glides, its neck and legs extended. It also circles and soars on rising air currents to gain height, especially during migration. After breeding in scattered pairs or small groups, it migrates and winters in flocks.

- **NEST** A large stick platform with a central hollow, lined with stems and grass and situated in a tree or on a building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in scattered areas from Europe to N. India. Winters in parts of Africa, Pakistan, and India.




DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

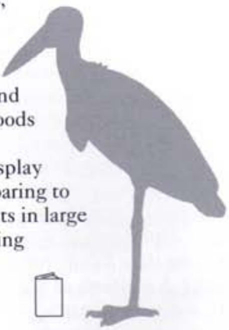
Family CICONIIDAE	Species *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*	Length 59 in (150 cm)

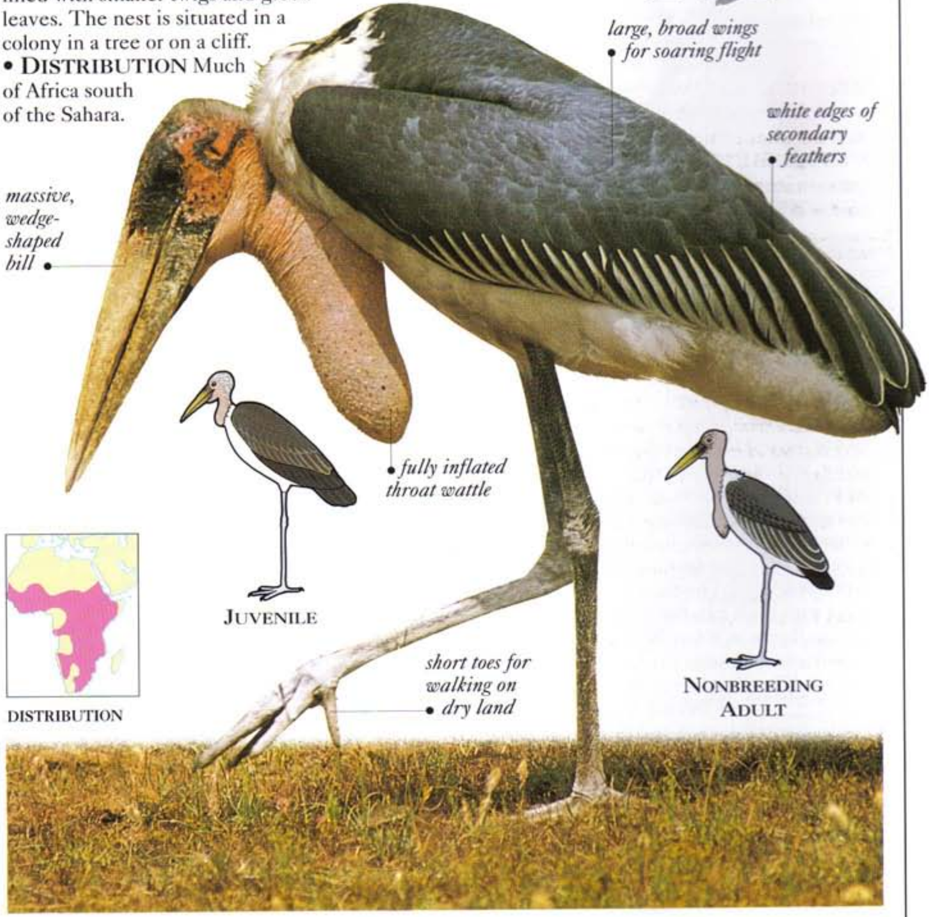
MARABOU STORK

A large, scavenging stork, this species lives in grassland and marshes, sometimes near human habitation. It feeds on animal carcasses of all sizes, sometimes competing with vultures, and also searches garbage dumps. Live prey is often taken, including insects, fish, rats, and small birds. Flamingo colonies are raided for eggs, young, and even adult birds. The Marabou's bald head enables it to eat messy foods such as carrion with minimal fouling of the feathers. Attached to the bare neck is a dangling, inflatable wattle, used in various forms of display behavior. The Marabou flies heavily on slowly beating wings, also soaring to considerable heights on rising air currents. It roosts in flocks and nests in large colonies. Courtship behavior includes a ritual slow raising and lowering of the head, with a variety of mooing, grunting, and whistling calls.

• **NEST** A large mass of sticks with a hollow at the center, which is lined with smaller twigs and green leaves. The nest is situated in a colony in a tree or on a cliff.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Africa south of the Sahara.




large, broad wings for soaring flight
white edges of secondary feathers
massive, wedge-shaped bill
fully inflated throat wattle
JUVENILE
short toes for walking on dry land
NONBREEDING ADULT
DISTRIBUTION

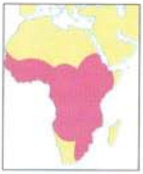
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CICONIIDAE | Species *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* | L 57 in (145 cm)/51 in (130 cm)

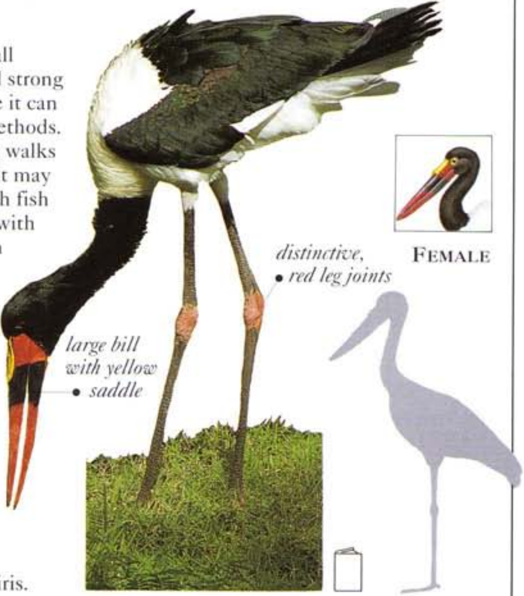
SADDLE-BILLED STORK

Like other wading storks, this species is tall and long-legged, with a long, thick bill and strong colors. It occurs in any kind of water where it can fish. The Saddlebill has several feeding methods. It stands in water and stabs fish on sight; it walks among waterplants and jabs at random; or it may sweep its bill through muddy water to catch fish by touch. Occasionally it stirs up the mud with one foot to disturb fish. Saddlebills roost in pairs in trees and nest in scattered pairs. In courtship, they run with wings spread, displaying their boldly marked plumage.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks, lined with reeds, sedges, and earth, on a bush or tree, usually near water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Africa south of the Sahara Desert.
- **REMARK** Apart from the difference in body size, the female can be recognized by her yellow iris.



DISTRIBUTION



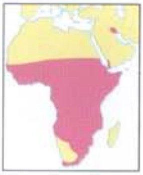
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE | Species *Threskiornis aethiopicus* | Length 30 in (75 cm)

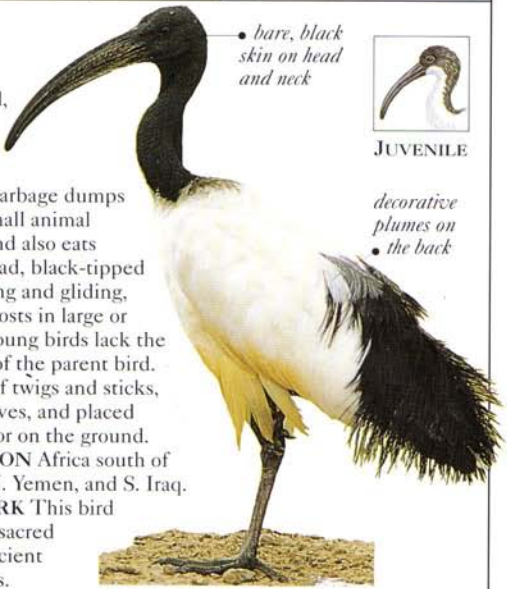
SACRED IBIS

Birds with downcurved bills are mostly specialized for probing in soil or mud for food, but the Sacred Ibis is very much a general feeder. It frequents marshy ground, the edges of lakes or rivers, grassland (especially after grass fires), cultivated fields, and even garbage dumps at the edges of towns. It hunts any kind of small animal as well as eggs and nestlings of other birds, and also eats carrion and offal. The Sacred Ibis flies on broad, black-tipped wings with neck extended, alternately flapping and gliding, often in flocks in V formation. It feeds and roosts in large or small flocks and nests in crowded colonies. Young birds lack the long bill. They feed directly from the throat of the parent bird.

- **NEST** A platform made of twigs and sticks, lined with grass and leaves, and placed in a tree, in a bush, or on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara, N. Yemen, and S. Iraq.
- **REMARK** This bird was held sacred by the ancient Egyptians.



DISTRIBUTION


bare, black skin on head and neck
JUVENILE
decorative plumes on the back

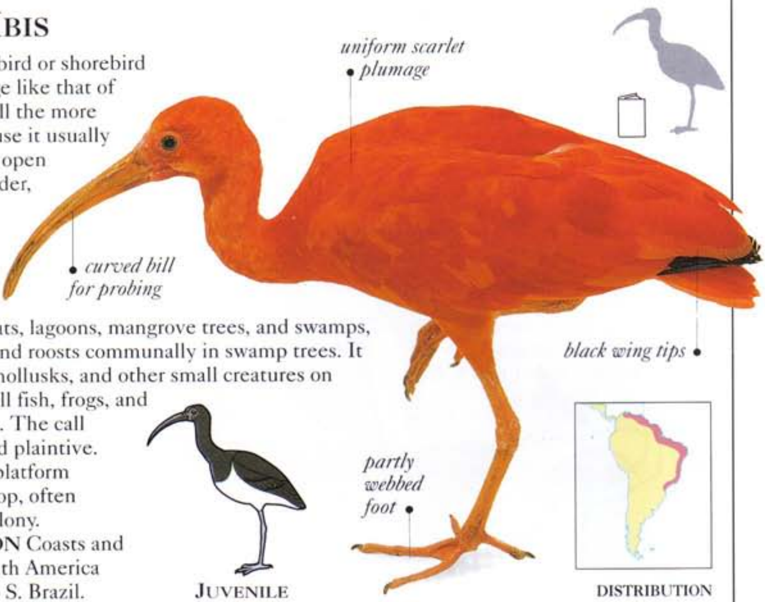
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE	Species *Eudocimus ruber*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

SCARLET IBIS

No other wading bird or shorebird has scarlet plumage like that of this species. It is all the more conspicuous because it usually occurs in flocks in open habitats. The slender, curved bill is used for probing into shallow water and mud for food. A bird of estuaries and coastal mudflats, lagoons, mangrove trees, and swamps, it feeds in flocks and roosts communally in swamp trees. It probes for crabs, mollusks, and other small creatures on mudflats, and small fish, frogs, and insects in marshes. The call is high pitched and plaintive.

- **NEST** A loose platform of sticks in a treetop, often over water, in a colony.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coasts and marshes of N. South America from Venezuela to S. Brazil.



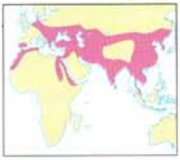
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

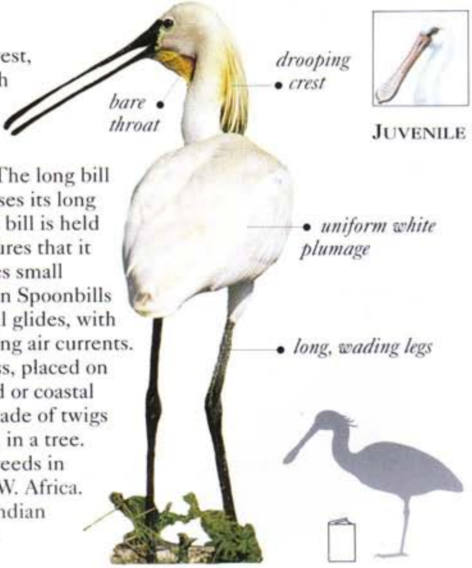
Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE	Species *Platalea leucorodia*	Length 35 in (90 cm)

EURASIAN SPOONBILL

A large, white wading bird with an elegant crest, this species occurs in shallow, open water with a muddy or sandy bed and not too much waterweed or other vegetation. It is most often encountered in small parties in coastal waters, lagoons, lakes, and flooded swamps. The long bill has a broad and flattened end, and the bird uses its long neck to sweep its bill through the water. The bill is held slightly open, and the bird seizes water creatures that it finds as it wades slowly forward. Prey includes small fish, crustaceans, and aquatic insects. Eurasian Spoonbills fly with slow, steady wingbeats and occasional glides, with neck and legs extended; they also soar on rising air currents.

- **NEST** A large pile of reeds, twigs, and grass, placed on the ground in a reedbed or coastal swamp; or a platform made of twigs and plant stems, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in parts of Eurasia and N.W. Africa. Winters in Africa, the Indian subcontinent, and parts of China and S.E. Asia.


DISTRIBUTION



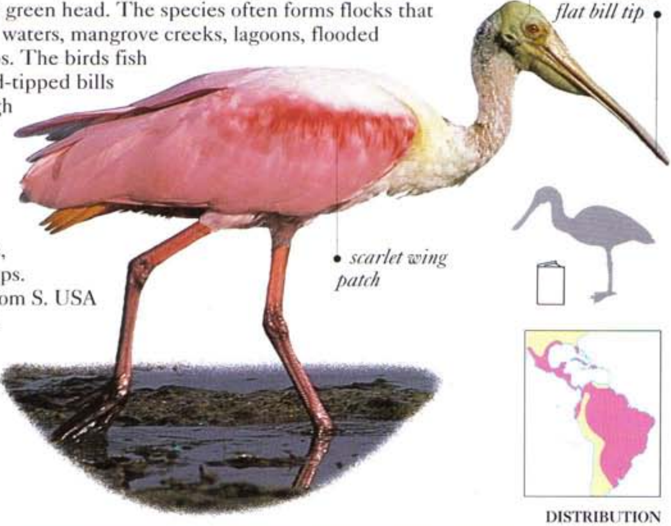
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

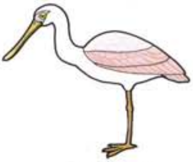
Family THRESKIORNITHIDAE	Species *Ajaia ajaja*	Length 31 in (80 cm)

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

The elegance of this spoonbill's rose-colored plumage contrasts with its bizarre-looking, bare green head. The species often forms flocks that wade in shallow coastal waters, mangrove creeks, lagoons, flooded marshlands, and swamps. The birds fish by sweeping their broad-tipped bills from side to side through the water, seizing any small fish that they chance to contact.

- **NEST** An untidy structure of twigs and sticks, lined with leaves, in a colony in the treetops.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. USA to C. Argentina.





JUVENILE

DISTRIBUTION

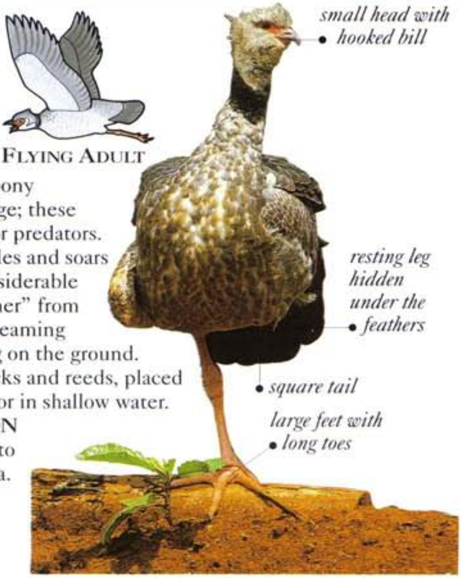
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ≋ ≈	Migration Non-migrant

Family ANHIMIDAE	Species *Chauna torquata*	Length 36 in (91 cm)

SOUTHERN SCREAMER

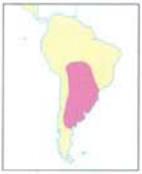
A goose-size bird of marshland and wet grassland, the Southern Screamer looks strangely proportioned, with its small head and big feet. The small, hooked bill is used for feeding on leaves, buds, and other parts of green plants. The large, broad wings carry bony spurs that project forward from the leading edge; these are used as weapons in fights with rival birds or predators. The Southern Screamer flies strongly and circles and soars on rising air currents, sometimes attaining considerable heights. The species gets the name of "screamer" from its characteristic habit of uttering frequent, screaming calls, both during flight and also when walking on the ground.

- **NEST** A structure of sticks and reeds, placed on the ground near or in shallow water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Brazil to C. Argentina.

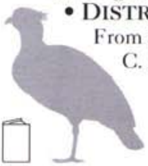


FLYING ADULT

small head with hooked bill
resting leg hidden under the feathers
square tail
large feet with long toes



DISTRIBUTION



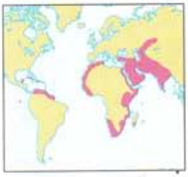
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≈ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE	Species *Phoenicopterus ruber*	Length 57 in (145 cm)

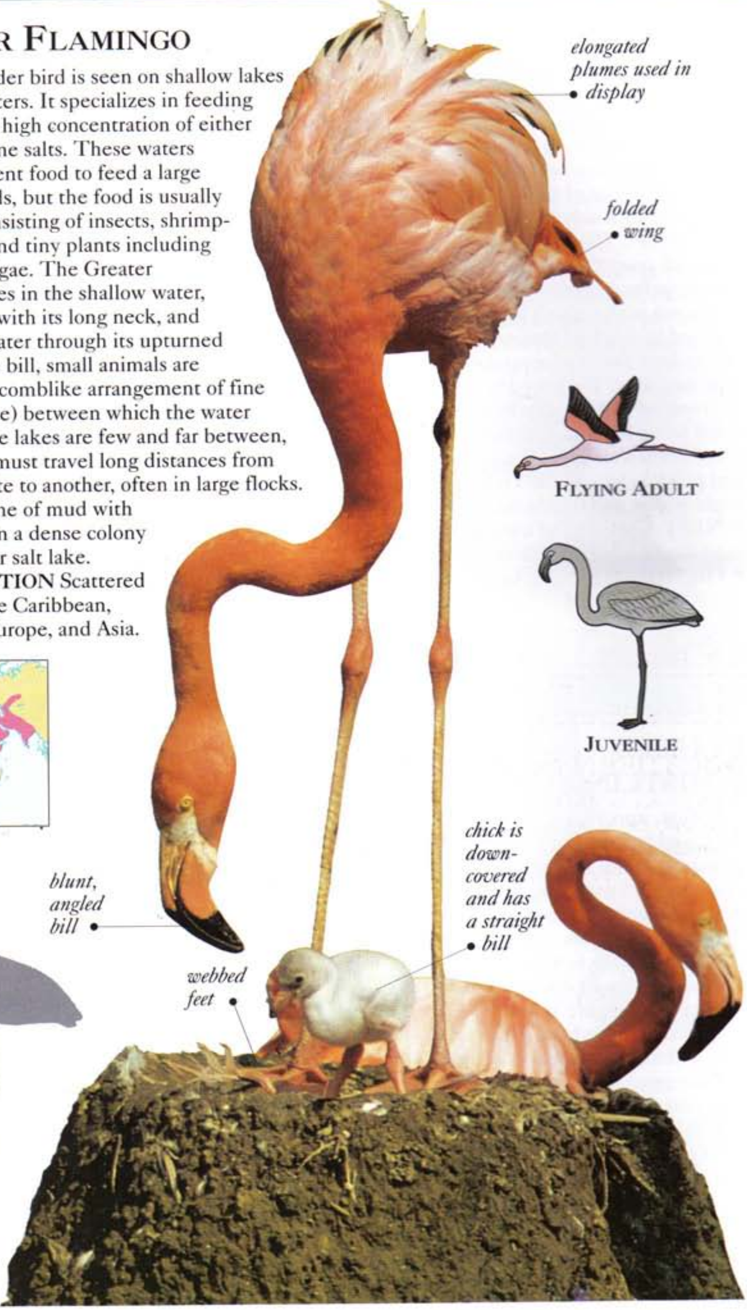
GREATER FLAMINGO

This tall, slender bird is seen on shallow lakes and coastal waters. It specializes in feeding in lakes with a high concentration of either saline or alkaline salts. These waters contain sufficient food to feed a large number of birds, but the food is usually very small, consisting of insects, shrimp-like animals, and tiny plants including diatoms and algae. The Greater Flamingo wades in the shallow water, reaches down with its long neck, and sucks in the water through its upturned bill. Inside the bill, small animals are collected on a comblike arrangement of fine plates (lamellae) between which the water drains. Suitable lakes are few and far between, and the birds must travel long distances from one feeding site to another, often in large flocks.

- **NEST** A cone of mud with a hollow top, in a dense colony on a mudflat or salt lake.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered locations in the Caribbean, Africa, S.W. Europe, and Asia.



DISTRIBUTION



elongated plumes used in display
folded wing
blunt, angled bill
webbed feet
chick is down-covered and has a straight bill

FLYING ADULT

JUVENILE

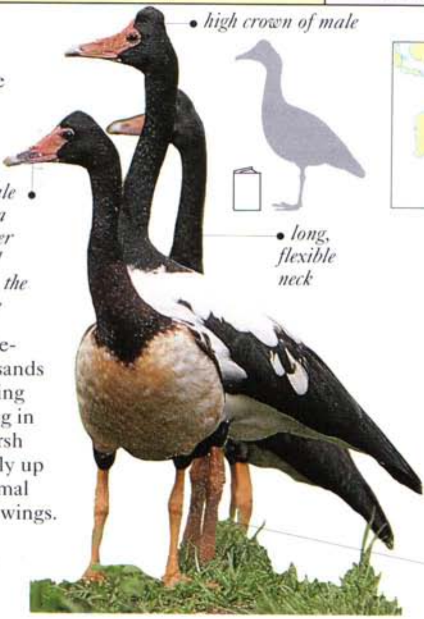
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋ ⋙	Migration Migrant

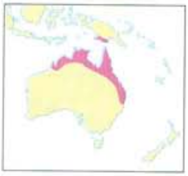
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anseranas semipalmata*	Length 34 in (85 cm)

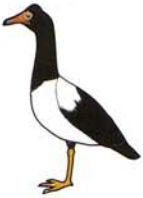
MAGPIE-GOOSE

This large, black-and-white goose inhabits tropical marshes, rivers, and lakes. It is distinctively tall, having unusually long legs for a goose as well as an upright posture. It is one of the few geese with only half-webbed feet. The bill is large and powerful with a strong tip for digging, and the crown of the male's head is raised in a domed shape. Magpie-Geese form flocks of several thousands after breeding. They feed by grazing in grassland and crops or by wading in water to eat roots and seeds of marsh plants. When alarmed, the geese fly up and perch in bare trees. Their normal flight is slow and steady, on broad wings.

- **NEST** A platform of trampled reed stems, lying in shallow water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Australia and S. New Guinea.


high crown of male
female has a flatter head than the male
long, flexible neck
legs are either pink or yellow


DISTRIBUTION


FULL VIEW OF ADULT

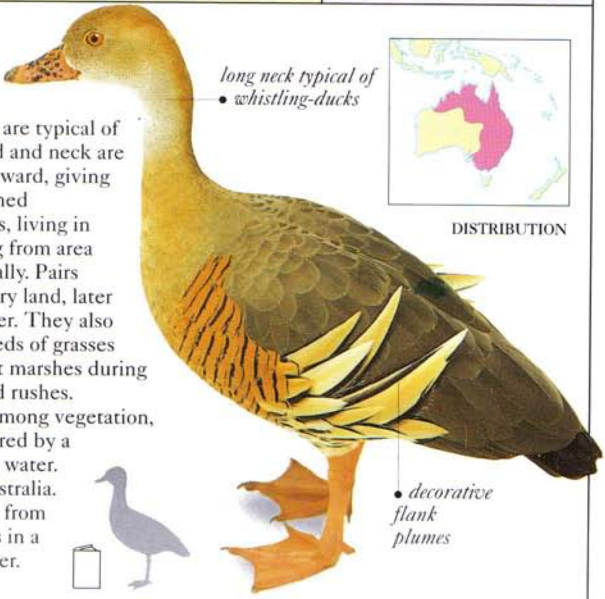
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Dendrocygna eytoni*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK

The slim, upright body, long neck, and long legs of this species are typical of whistling-ducks. In flight the head and neck are extended and droop slightly downward, giving the bird a humpbacked look. Plumed Whistling-Ducks are sociable birds, living in noisy flocks close to water, moving from area to area as wetlands dry out seasonally. Pairs stay together for life and nest on dry land, later leading the young back to the water. They also feed on land, eating leaves and seeds of grasses and low-growing plants. They visit marshes during drier periods to feed on sedges and rushes.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground among vegetation, lined with grass and usually sheltered by a bush, hidden a little distance from water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. and E. Australia.
- **REMARK** The name is derived from the loud, whistling calls that ducks in a flock constantly utter to one another.

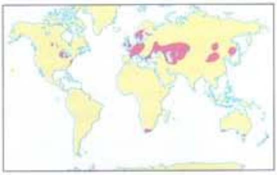

long neck typical of whistling-ducks
decorative flank plumes

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Cygnus olor*	Length 60 in (152 cm)

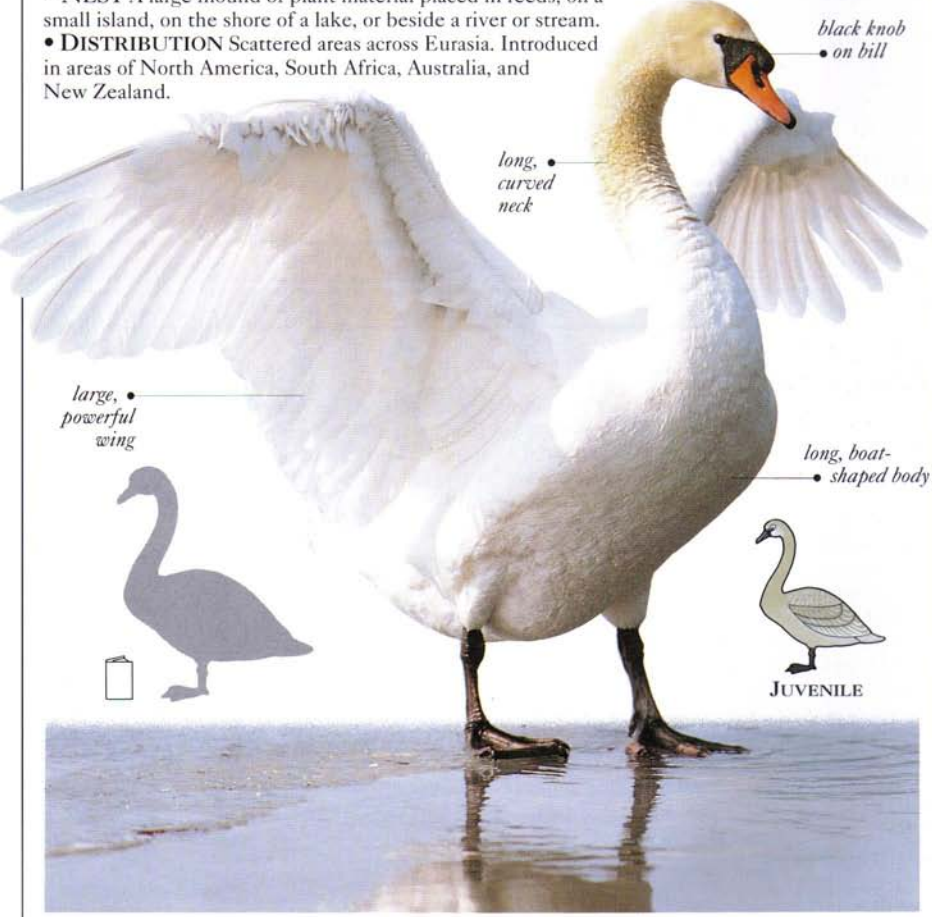
MUTE SWAN



DISTRIBUTION

This species occurs on freshwater lakes and rivers and is the largest and heaviest swimming bird in this habitat. It is identified by the red color of the bill in adult birds, contrasting with the gray bills of juveniles and with the yellow bills of adults of other swan species in its range. Its body is streamlined for swimming, and its legs are short and strong. The neck is long and flexible enough to reach underwater for aquatic plants and roots, which are the bird's main food. The diet also includes worms, shellfish, and other small animals. It leaves the water to graze but is slow and ungainly on dry land and never ventures far from water. The Mute Swan flies on tapering wings, with its neck stretched forward. Pairs stay together for life. When not breeding, the birds are sociable, forming flocks on lakes, rivers, and estuaries, but nesting pairs defend their territories vigorously against other swans. As its name implies, this species is silent, apart from hisses, grunts, and throaty noises.

- **NEST** A large mound of plant material placed in reeds, on a small island, on the shore of a lake, or beside a river or stream.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas across Eurasia. Introduced in areas of North America, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.



JUVENILE

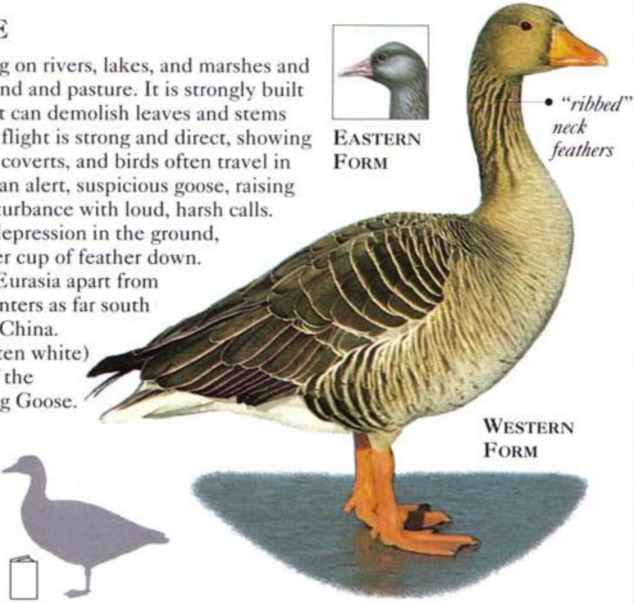
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

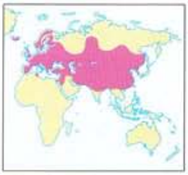
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anser anser*	Length 35 in (90 cm)

GREYLAG GOOSE

This goose is seen swimming on rivers, lakes, and marshes and walking or running in grassland and pasture. It is strongly built and has a short, stout bill that can demolish leaves and stems and dig up roots for food. Its flight is strong and direct, showing conspicuous, blue-gray wing coverts, and birds often travel in V formation. The Greylag is an alert, suspicious goose, raising the alarm at the slightest disturbance with loud, harsh calls.

- **NEST** A shallow, natural depression in the ground, lined with leaves and an inner cup of feather down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Across Eurasia apart from N. Russia and N. Siberia. Winters as far south as N. Africa, Iran, India, and China.
- **REMARK** Farm geese (often white) are the domesticated form of the Greylag Goose.




DISTRIBUTION

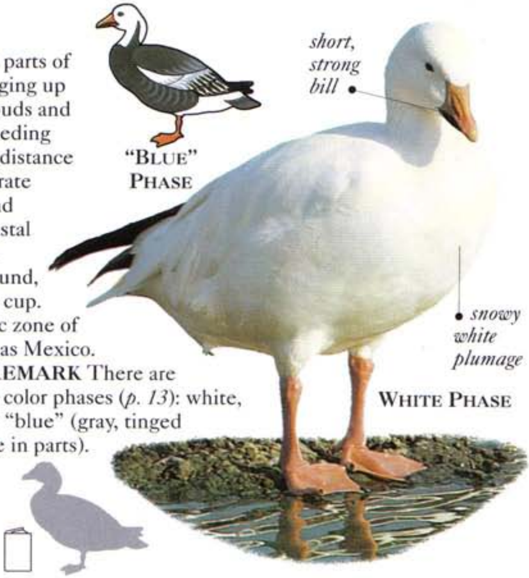
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ıılıı ψ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

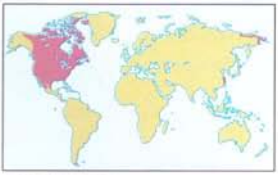
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anser caerulescens*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

SNOW GOOSE

An Arctic goose breeding in marshy parts of the tundra, this species feeds by digging up roots and bulbs, and also grazes on buds and leaves. It is sociable, even in the breeding season, when pairs nest only a short distance apart. After breeding, the geese migrate in flocks, sometimes several thousand strong, to winter on marshes and coastal grassland. The call is a harsh cackle.

- **NEST** A natural hollow in the ground, lined with leaves and an inner down cup.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Arctic zone of North America. Winters as far south as Mexico.
- **REMARK** There are two color phases (*p. 13*): white, and "blue" (gray, tinged blue in parts).




DISTRIBUTION

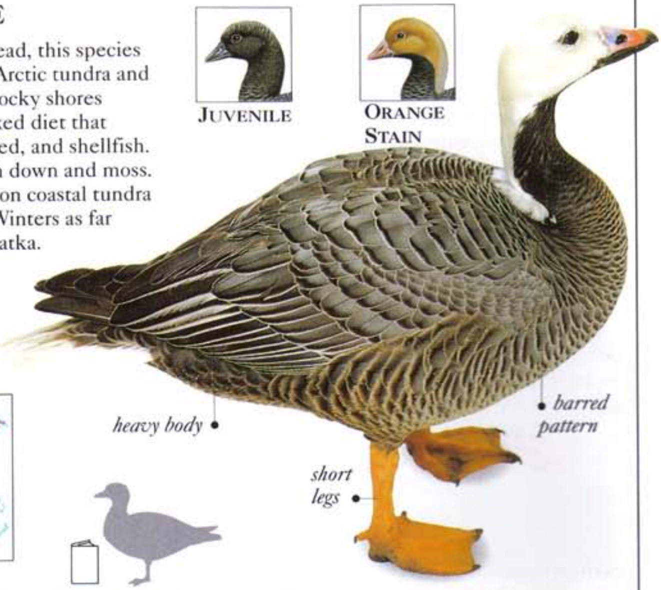
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ıılıı ψ≋	Migration Migrant

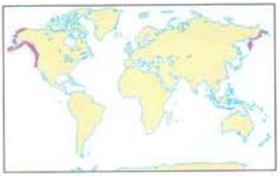
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anser canagicus*	Length 26 in (65 cm)

EMPEROR GOOSE

A dark goose with a white head, this species breeds near the coast in the Arctic tundra and winters in family parties on rocky shores and islands. It feeds on a mixed diet that includes green plants, seaweed, and shellfish.

- **NEST** A hollow lined with down and moss.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coastal tundra of Alaska and N.E. Siberia. Winters as far south as W. USA and Kamchatka.
- **REMARK** The head and neck are sometimes stained orange by iron salts in the water in which the birds dip for food.





DISTRIBUTION

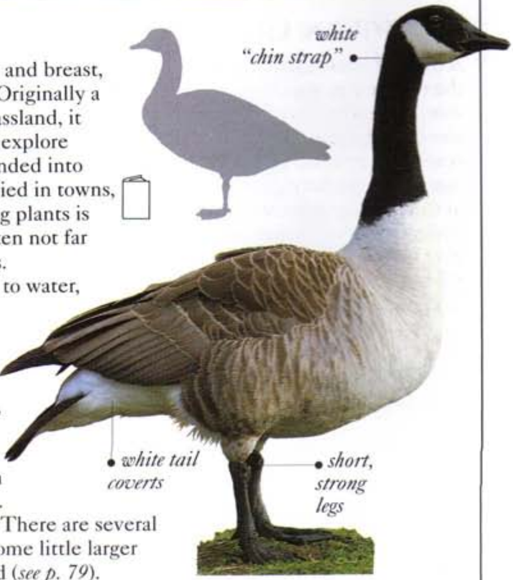
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ılıılı ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

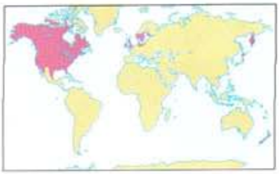
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Branta canadensis*	Length 115cm (45in)

CANADA GOOSE

Mainly dark, with white markings on the face and breast, this goose is becoming increasingly common. Originally a bird that lived mainly in tundra and prairie grassland, it has become more willing in recent decades to explore new breeding areas. Canada Geese have expanded into freshwater sites in woodland and have multiplied in towns, where their diet of grass and other low-growing plants is always available. Flocks fly in V formation, often not far above the ground, uttering loud, honking calls.

- **NEST** A natural hollow in dry ground close to water, lined with grass, down, and a few feathers.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds throughout N. America and in E. Siberia. Winters as far south as New Mexico, E. China, and Japan. Introduced in N.W. Europe.
- **REMARK** There are several subspecies, some little larger than a Mallard (*see p. 79*).





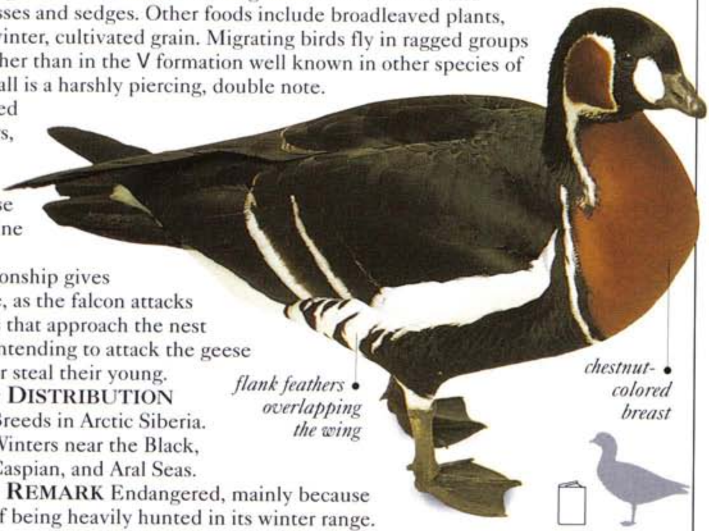
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ılıılı ≋	Migration Migrant

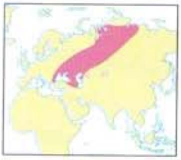
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Branta ruficollis*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

RED-BREASTED GOOSE

This rare goose is a migrant to the Arctic, breeding on mountain tundra and feeding mainly on grasses and sedges. Other foods include broadleaved plants, roots, tubers, and, in winter, cultivated grain. Migrating birds fly in ragged groups or in slanting lines, rather than in the V formation well known in other species of geese. The frequent call is a harshly piercing, double note.



- **NEST** A hollow, lined with down and feathers, in the top of a raised piece of ground. Pairs often choose a site close to the nest of a Peregrine Falcon (*see p. 105*). Surprisingly, this relationship gives protection to the geese, as the falcon attacks or deters any predators that approach the nest intending to attack the geese or steal their young.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Arctic Siberia. Winters near the Black, Caspian, and Aral Seas.
- **REMARK** Endangered, mainly because of being heavily hunted in its winter range.


DISTRIBUTION

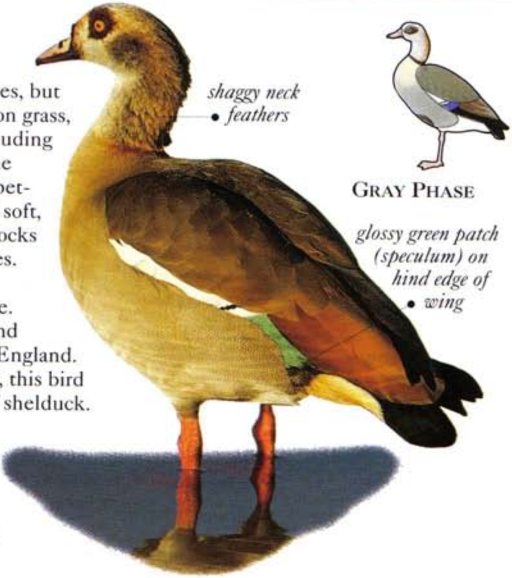
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ⩩ ▲	Migration Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Alopochen aegyptiacus*	Length 30 in (75 cm)

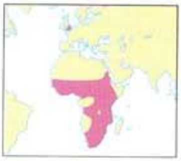
EGYPTIAN GOOSE

This bird lives in marshes, lakes, and rivers, where it sometimes swims and dives, but it is more usually seen on land. It grazes on grass, also eating leaves and seeds of plants including crops, and possibly occasional insects. The female can be distinguished by her trumpet-like quacking, in contrast with the male's soft, husky calls. Pairs mate for life, forming flocks after breeding that perch and roost in trees.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground under vegetation, or a hole in a cliff, cave, or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Upper Nile Valley and Africa south of the Sahara; introduced in England.
- **REMARK** Although it is called a goose, this bird is really a species of shelduck.



GRAY PHASE


DISTRIBUTION

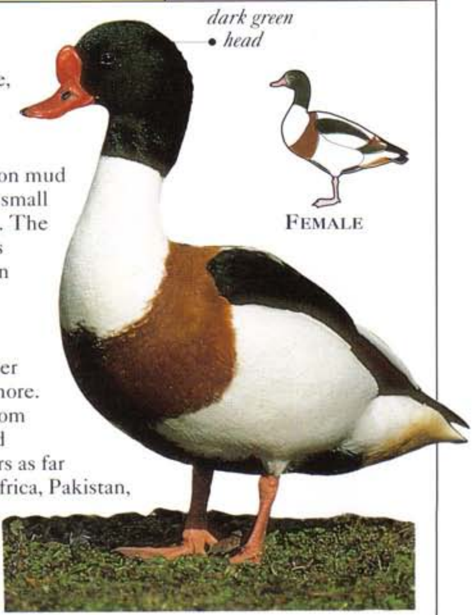
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≈ ⩩	Migration Partial migrant

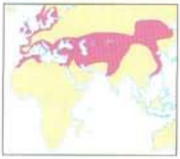
Family ANATIDAE | Species *Tadorna tadorna* | Length 27 in (68 cm)

COMMON SHELDUCK

Recognizable by its alternate panels of black, white, and chestnut brown, this bird is seen in winter flocks on estuaries and mudflats. Flocks also occur inland, for instance on salt lakes in semi-arid areas. Shelducks feed by dabbling with their bills, either on mud exposed by the tide or in shallow water. They take small shellfish, crustaceans, insect larvae, and waterweed. The birds nest inland and lead the young to the water as soon as they hatch. After breeding, adults migrate in large flocks for their annual molt, a process during which they are unable to fly. This takes place in safety from predators on vast offshore mudflats.

- **NEST** A cavity in a tree or bank, or a hollow under bushes, lined with down, some distance from the shore.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N.W. Europe and from S. Europe through C. Asia and N. China to E. Siberia. Winters as far south as N.W. Africa, Pakistan, and S.W. China.




DISTRIBUTION

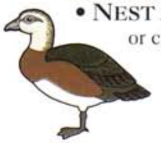
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

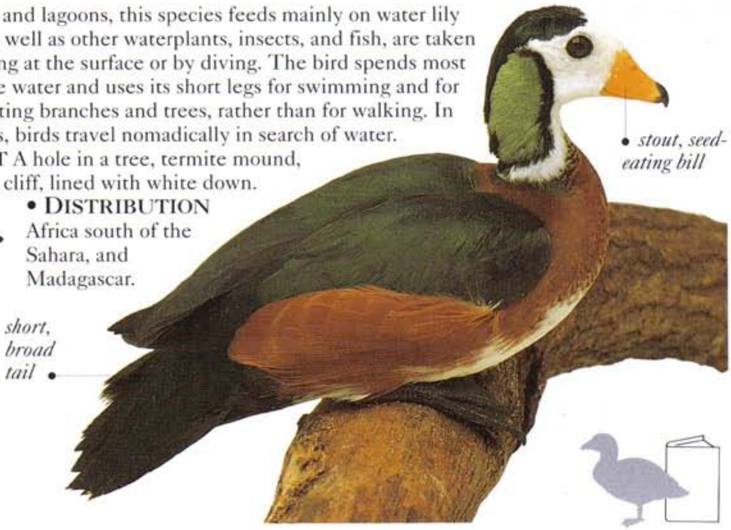
Family ANATIDAE | Species *Nettapus auritus* | Length 13 in (33 cm)

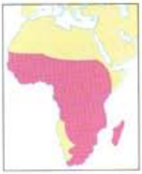
AFRICAN PYGMY GOOSE

Living on pools and lagoons, this species feeds mainly on water lily seeds. These, as well as other waterplants, insects, and fish, are taken either by dabbling at the surface or by diving. The bird spends most of its time on the water and uses its short legs for swimming and for perching on floating branches and trees, rather than for walking. In drier areas, birds travel nomadically in search of water.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, termite mound, or cliff, lined with white down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara, and Madagascar.


FEMALE

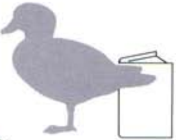



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

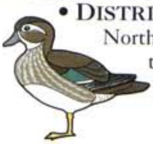
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Aix sponsa*	Length 18½ in (47 cm)

WOOD DUCK

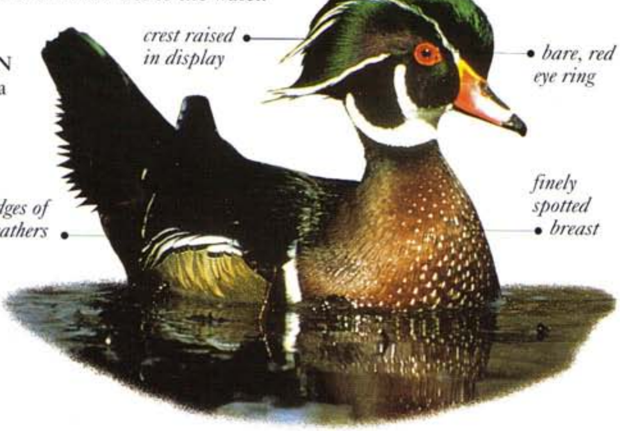


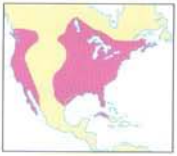
This species lives in wooded lakes and rivers and feeds on acorns, nuts, seeds, green plants, and small invertebrates. It is one of the few ducks that perch readily on branches. Another characteristic feature is that it nests in trees. Soon after hatching, the ducklings jump down from the nest at their mother's call and follow her to the water.

- **NEST** A tree hole or nest box, lined with down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North America to Cuba.



FEMALE


crest raised in display
bare, red eye ring
finely spotted breast
white edges of flank feathers



DISTRIBUTION

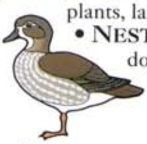
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ 🌳🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Aix galericulata*	Length 18½ in (47 cm)

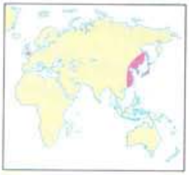
MANDARIN DUCK

A shy, woodland duck, this species rests by day in shrubs overhanging water and feeds in woodland streams and lakes at dusk. The male has a sweeping, bushy crest on its head and one enlarged, orange feather on each inner wing. The Mandarin prefers broadleaved woodland, especially oak, eating acorns and other seeds, nuts, plants, land snails, insects, and small fish.

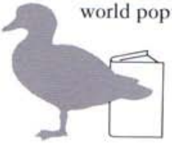
- **NEST** A hole in a tree, lined with down, often situated over water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in E. Asia. Winters as far south as S. China.
- **REMARK** Introduced as an ornamental bird in S. England, which now has a significant part of the world population.

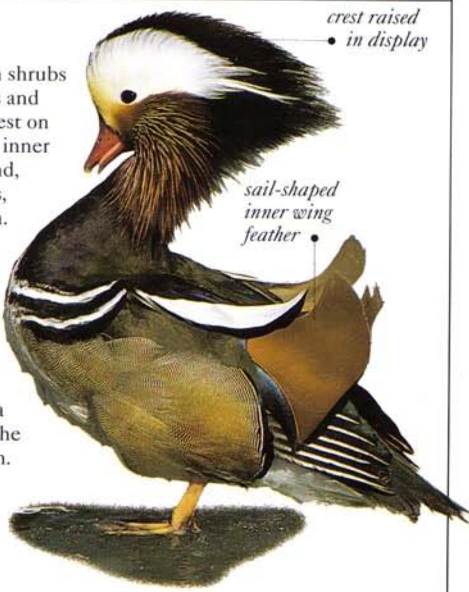


FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION




crest raised in display
sail-shaped inner wing feather

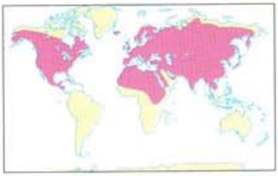
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ 🌳🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family *ANATIDAE*	Species *Anas crecca*	Length *14½ in (37 cm)*

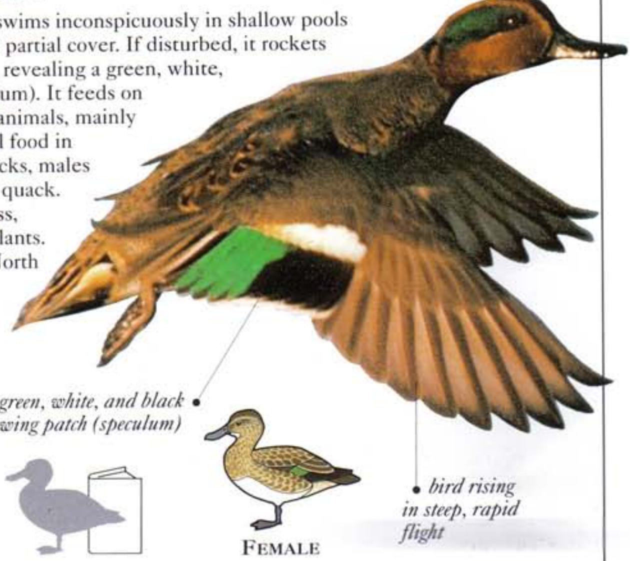
GREEN-WINGED TEAL

This small dabbling duck often swims inconspicuously in shallow pools where marsh vegetation provides partial cover. If disturbed, it rockets up from the water in rapid flight, revealing a green, white, and black wing patch (the speculum). It feeds on a wide range of plants and small animals, mainly eating seeds in winter and animal food in summer. As in other dabbling ducks, males utter whistling calls, but females quack.

- **NEST** A depression in dry grass, lined with down, among marsh plants.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as Central America, Africa, India, and S.E. Asia.



DISTRIBUTION


green, white, and black wing patch (speculum)
FEMALE
bird rising in steep, rapid flight

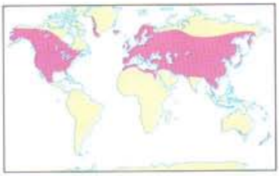
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anas platyrhynchos*	Length 23 in (58 cm)

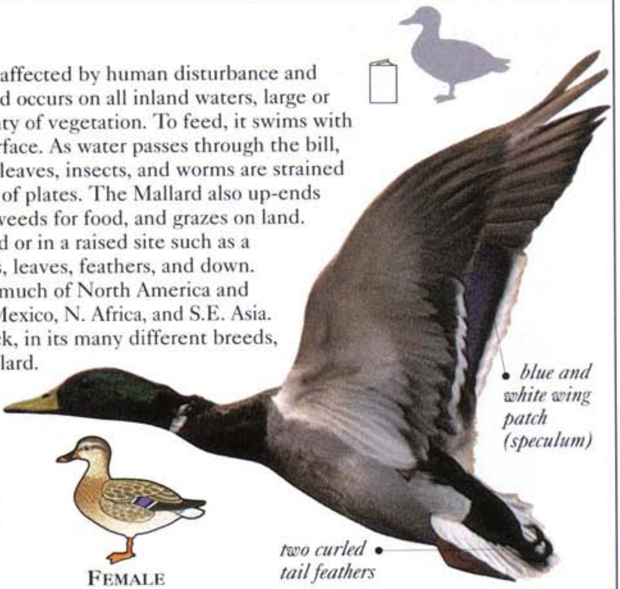
MALLARD

A dabbling duck that seems unaffected by human disturbance and changing conditions, the Mallard occurs on all inland waters, large or small. It prefers those with plenty of vegetation. To feed, it swims with its bill dabbling in the water surface. As water passes through the bill, small food items such as seeds, leaves, insects, and worms are strained out by a comblike arrangement of plates. The Mallard also up-ends itself to reach down to mud or weeds for food, and grazes on land.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground or in a raised site such as a pollarded tree, lined with stems, leaves, feathers, and down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as Mexico, N. Africa, and S.E. Asia.
- **REMARK** The farmyard duck, in its many different breeds, is the domestic form of the Mallard.



DISTRIBUTION


blue and white wing patch (speculum)
FEMALE
two curled tail feathers

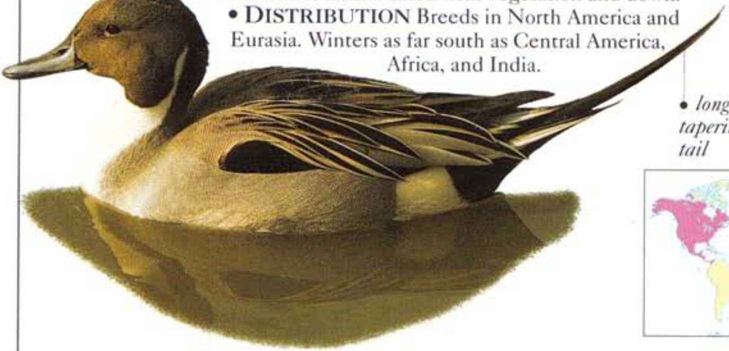
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Partial migrant

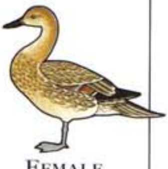
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anas acuta*	L. 26 in (65 cm)/20 in (50 cm)

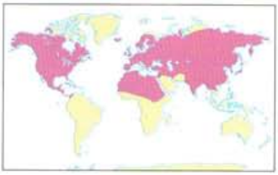
NORTHERN PINTAIL

A slim dabbling duck identified by the male's long, tapering tail feathers, this species flies rapidly, its wings making a swishing sound. Occurring mainly in pairs and small parties on open, shallow waters, the Pintail avoids reedbeds and tall marsh plants. It rests on the water by day and feeds at night. The usual feeding method is to up-end in the water and reach down for roots, seeds, and tubers, but birds also go ashore to graze, or dabble in surface waters for seeds and small animals. Northern Pintails usually migrate to the coast in winter.

- **NEST** A hollow lined with vegetation and down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as Central America, Africa, and India.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

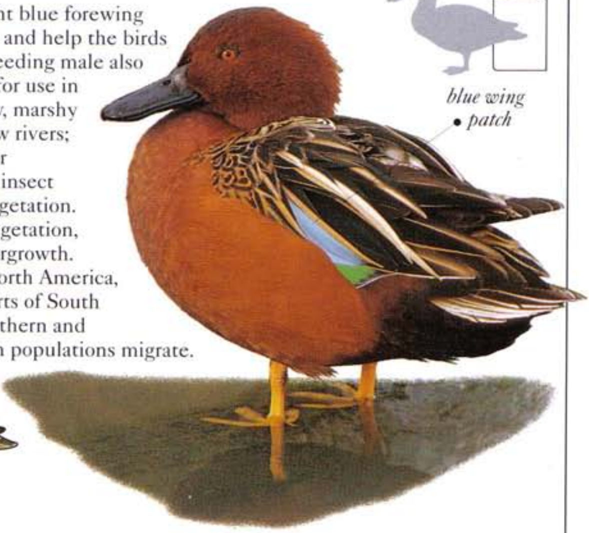
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≈ ≈ ≈	Migration Migrant

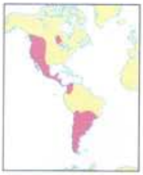
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Anas cyanoptera*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

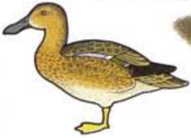
CINNAMON TEAL

Both sexes of this species have bright blue forewing patches that show suddenly in flight and help the birds to recognize their own kind. The breeding male also has vivid, rufous-red body plumage for use in display. The species inhabits shallow, marshy inland waters and the margins of slow rivers; it feeds by dabbling at the surface for small floating items such as seeds or insect larvae. It breeds in tall marshland vegetation.

- **NEST** A depression in a pile of vegetation, lined with down and hidden in undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. North America, W. Ontario, Central America, and parts of South America. Both northern and southern populations migrate.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

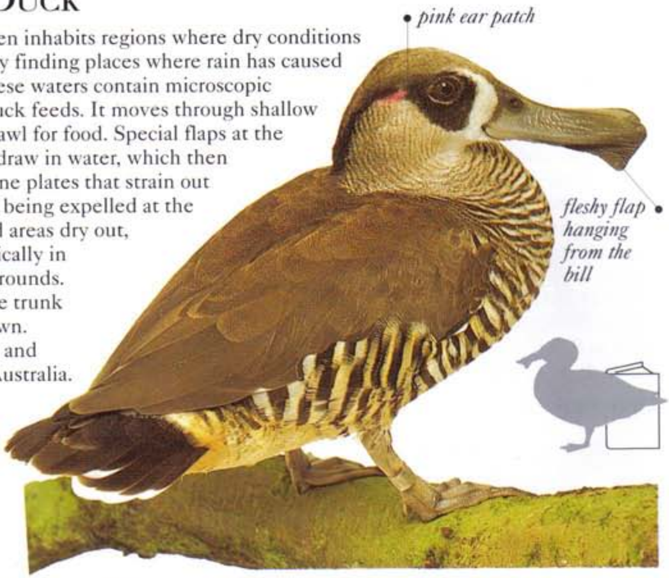
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≈ ≈	Migration Migrant

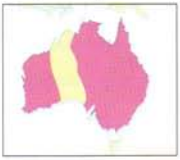
Family ANATIDAE	Species *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

PINK-EARED DUCK

This dabbling duck often inhabits regions where dry conditions are usual and survives by finding places where rain has caused temporary flooding. These waters contain microscopic animals on which the duck feeds. It moves through shallow water, using its bill to trawl for food. Special flaps at the side of the bill tip help draw in water, which then passes over a series of fine plates that strain out the tiny animals, before being expelled at the sides. When the flooded areas dry out, the ducks travel nomadically in search of new feeding grounds.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree trunk or stump, lined with down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. and E. (mainly southeast) Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

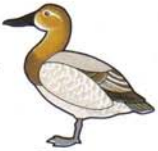
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Nomadic

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Aythya valisineria*	Length 21 in (53 cm)

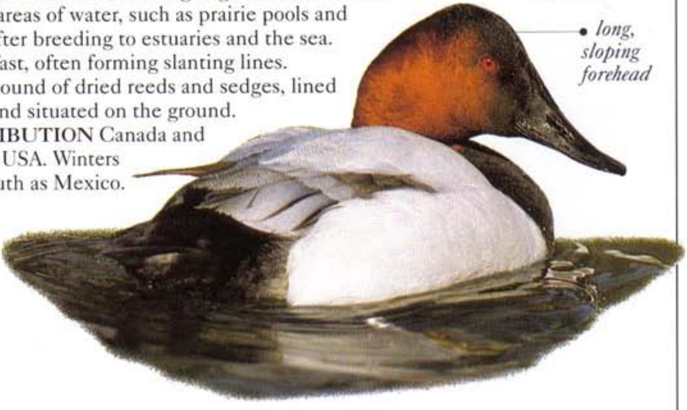
CANVASBACK

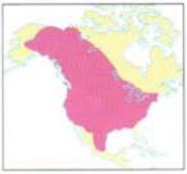
A diving duck of open water on lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coasts, this species is identified by the long, sloping outline of its forehead and bill. The legs are strong and set wide on the body for underwater swimming. The Canvasback dives to feed on waterplants or shellfish, reaching depths of some 30 ft (9 m). The species is common and sociable, forming large flocks in winter. It nests inland on small areas of water, such as prairie pools and marshes, and migrates after breeding to estuaries and the sea. Flocks fly strongly and fast, often forming slanting lines.

- **NEST** A mound of dried reeds and sedges, lined with down, and situated on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Canada and N. and W. USA. Winters as far south as Mexico.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

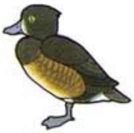
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Aythya fuligula*	Length 17 in (43 cm)

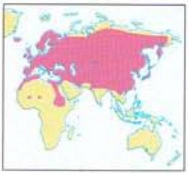
TUFTED DUCK

A slender crest dangling over the nape identifies this diving duck. Naturally a bird of deep, open water on lakes and rivers, it has adapted itself to live in built-up areas. Of all the birds seen in an urban setting, the Tufted Duck is unique for two features: males have black plumage with white sides and bellies, and both sexes have yellow, button eyes. Tufted Ducks swim well underwater, sometimes to depths of 45 ft (14 m), and feed on a wide range of tiny aquatic animals and plants.

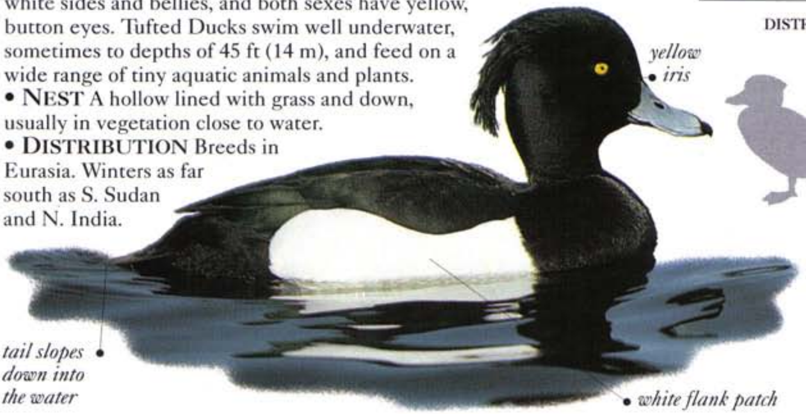
- **NEST** A hollow lined with grass and down, usually in vegetation close to water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia. Winters as far south as S. Sudan and N. India.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION


yellow iris
tail slopes down into the water
white flank patch

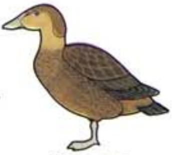
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Somateria spectabilis*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

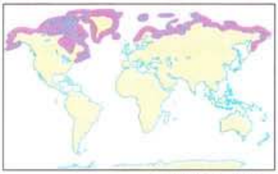
KING EIDER

This stout sea duck dives for shellfish in cold, coastal waters at all times of year. The feathering is dense, with a thick layer of down. Males have an unusual bulging forehead.

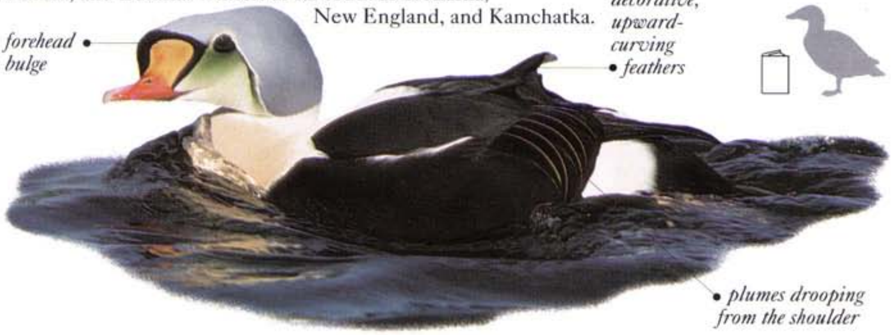
- **NEST** A hollow lined with down, that the birds pluck from their undersides.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Alaska, Canada, and Eurasia. Winters as far south as S. Alaska, New England, and Kamchatka.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION


forehead bulge
decorative, upward-curving feathers
plumes drooping from the shoulder

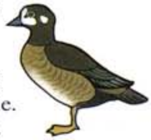
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ⋙ ≋ ψ≋	Migration Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Histrionicus histrionicus*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

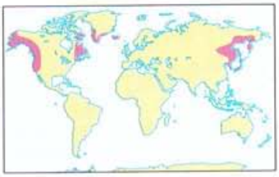
HARLEQUIN DUCK

The brilliant, fragmented pattern of this duck's plumage is a subtle camouflage against clear, moving waters. The Harlequin breeds beside cold, fast-flowing streams and rivers, feeding on the aquatic insects that cling to rocks and shingle. It flies strongly and low, following watercourses. After breeding it migrates to the sea, where it dives for shellfish, crustaceans, and other food.

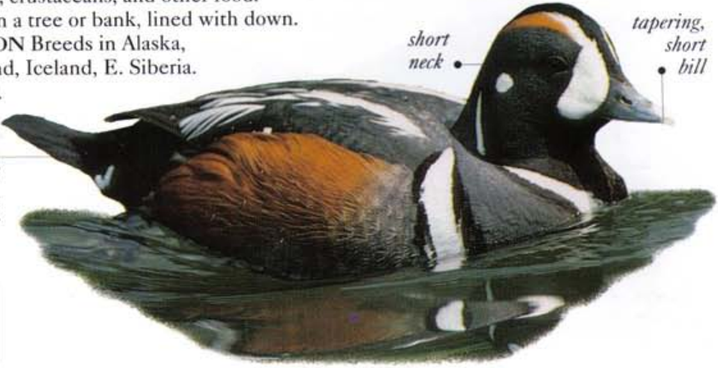
- **NEST** A hole in a tree or bank, lined with down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, E. Siberia. Winters on coasts.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION


short neck
tapering, short bill
strong, compact build for swimming in rough water

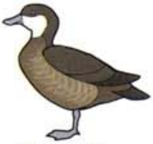
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ⫽ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Melanitta nigra*	Length 19 in (48 cm)

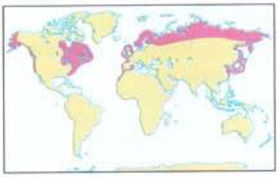
BLACK SCOTER

The orange bill patch of the male and the pale cheeks of the female identify the Black Scoter. The species spends much of the year at sea. Large flocks float in shallow coastal waters or fly low over the water in straggling formations. Birds dive, often simultaneously, to feed on mussels and other marine animals.

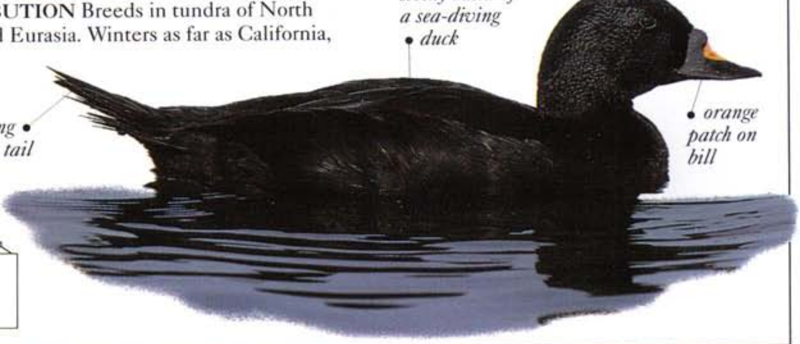
- **NEST** A down-lined hollow on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in tundra of North America and Eurasia. Winters as far as California, N. Africa, and China.



FEMALE



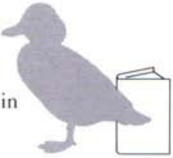
DISTRIBUTION


stocky build of a sea-diving duck
stiff, tapering tail
orange patch on bill

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

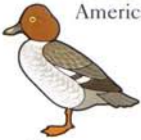
Family	Species	Length
ANATIDAE	*Bucephala clangula*	20 in (50 cm)

COMMON GOLDENEYE

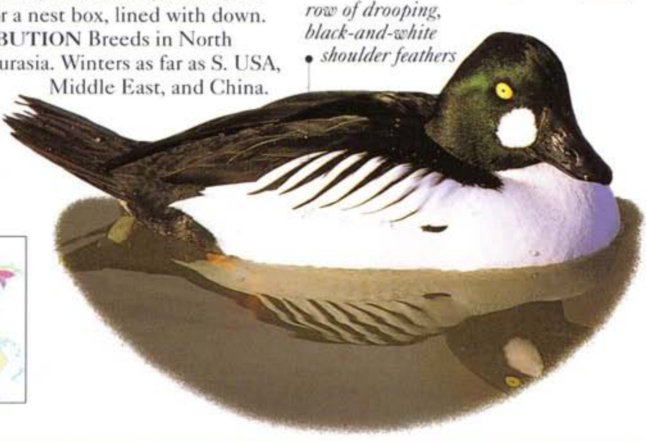


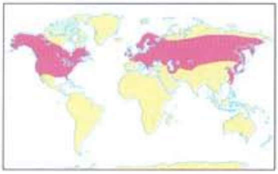
With its thick head feathering this diving duck looks big-headed but, when the head is raised, the neck looks narrow. Both sexes have golden-yellow eyes. The birds spend summer beside inland waters in the northern forests, nesting in tree holes. They winter on estuaries, coastal bays, and large inland lakes. The diet consists mainly of shellfish, crustaceans, and insects.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, or a nest box, lined with down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America, Eurasia. Winters as far as S. USA, Middle East, and China.



FEMALE



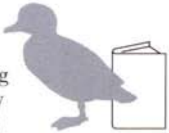


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ	≋	Migrant

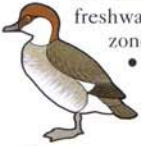
Family	Species	Length
ANATIDAE	*Mergellus albellus*	17 in (43 cm)

SMEW

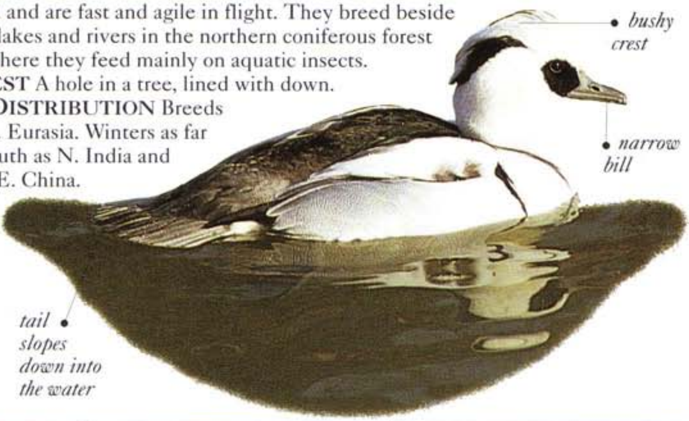


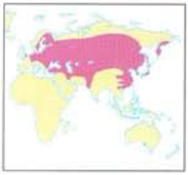
A small diving duck with a neat plumage pattern, the Smew is well adapted for fishing underwater. The mandibles of its bill carry rows of spikes resembling teeth, and the bill has a small, sharp hook at the tip which helps to grip slippery fish. The bird floats on the surface and peers into the water to locate prey, then dives underneath to give chase, using its feet for propulsion. Smew walk well on land and are fast and agile in flight. They breed beside freshwater lakes and rivers in the northern coniferous forest zone, where they feed mainly on aquatic insects.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, lined with down.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds N. Eurasia. Winters as far south as N. India and S.E. China.



FEMALE



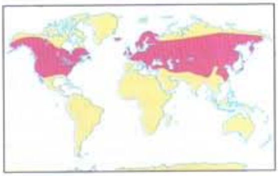


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ	≋	Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Mergus merganser*	Length 26 in (65 cm)

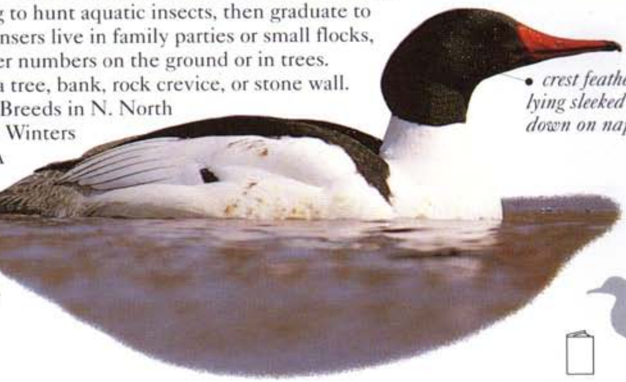
COMMON MERGANSER



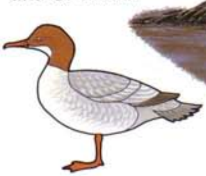
DISTRIBUTION

This large, fish-eating duck is adapted for fast underwater swimming in pursuit of its prey. Its body is streamlined, and the bill is long and narrow. Each mandible carries a row of backward-pointing spikes on each side. These, and the hooked bill tip, help grip slippery fish. The birds fish in estuaries, lowland rivers, lakes, and the fast-flowing rivers and streams of the uplands. They fly fast and low, often following the course of a river. Young birds start by learning to hunt aquatic insects, then graduate to fish. Common Mergansers live in family parties or small flocks, often roosting in larger numbers on the ground or in trees.

- **NEST** A cavity in a tree, bank, rock crevice, or stone wall.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as S. USA and C. China.



crest feathers lying sleeked down on nape



FEMALE

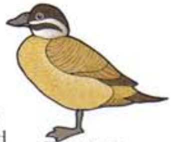
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ 🌳 ≋	Migration Migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Oxyura leucocephala*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

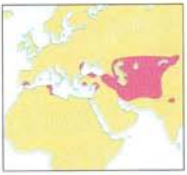
WHITE-HEADED DUCK

A diving duck of freshwater habitats, upper estuaries, and lakes where fresh and salt water mix, this is one of the "stiff-tailed" species. The tail normally trails on or below the surface but is held up vertically in display. The White-headed Duck prefers open, shallow waters with a fringe of reeds. It feeds on waterplants and aquatic animals and rarely goes ashore, walking clumsily when it does so.

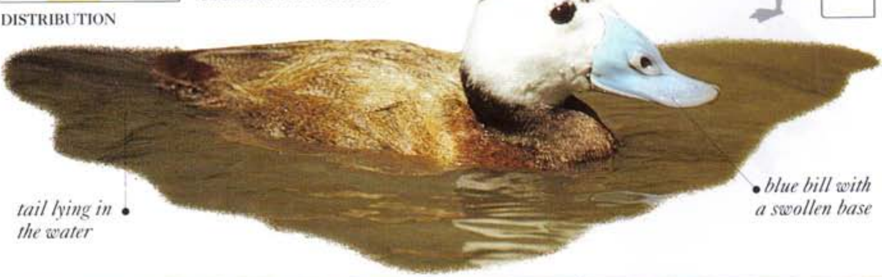
- **NEST** A hole in a tree or a hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in scattered areas from S. Spain to Middle East and C. Asia. Eastern populations migrate as far south as N.W. India.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION



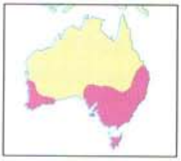
tail lying in the water

blue bill with a swollen base

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ 🌾	Migration Partial migrant

Family ANATIDAE	Species *Biziura lobata*	L. 27 in (68 cm)/21 in (53 cm)

MUSK DUCK

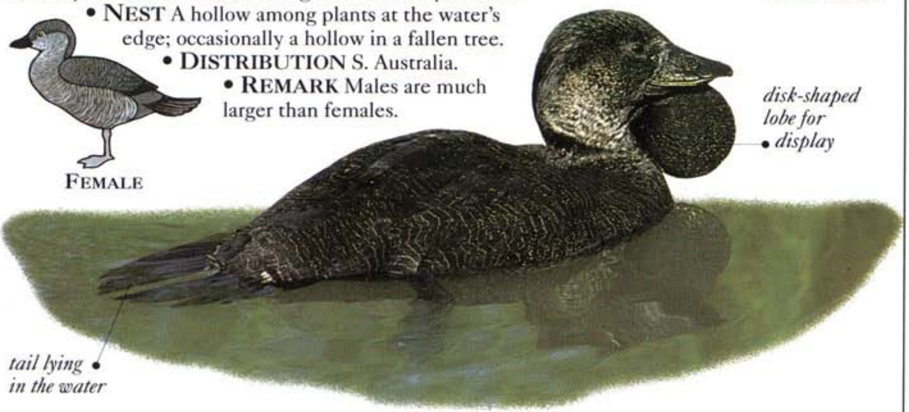


DISTRIBUTION

This large diving duck has a rounded back, a stout head, and a heavy bill from which an unusual, disk-shaped lobe is suspended. It gets its name from the musky scent of its plumage. The Musk Duck feeds mainly on small aquatic animals, ranging in size from insects to frogs. It rarely leaves the water, moving with difficulty on land.

- **NEST** A hollow among plants at the water's edge; occasionally a hollow in a fallen tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Australia.
- **REMARK** Males are much larger than females.

FEMALE



disk-shaped lobe for display

tail lying in the water

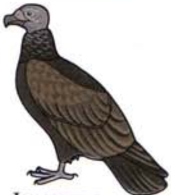
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family CATHARTIDAE	Species *Cathartes aura*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

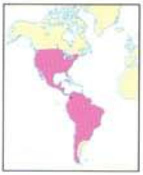
TURKEY VULTURE

A common vulture often seen soaring and circling in search of food, this species feeds mainly on carrion. Like other vultures of the Americas, it uses its acute sense of smell to locate a dead animal. Besides eating carrion, it sometimes kills small animals such as lizards or steals the eggs or nestlings of birds.

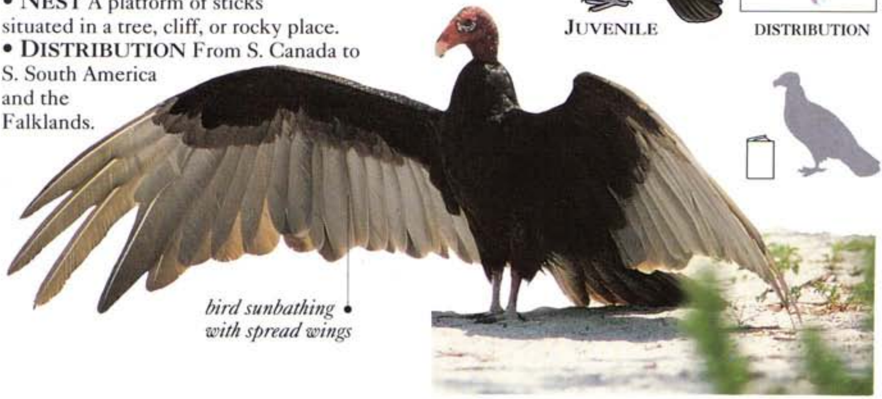
- **NEST** A platform of sticks situated in a tree, cliff, or rocky place.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Canada to S. South America and the Falklands.



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION



bird sunbathing with spread wings

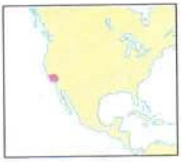
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ψψψ ψψ ✈	Migration Partial migrant

Family CATHARTIDAE

Species *Gymnogyps californianus*

Length 45 in (115 cm)

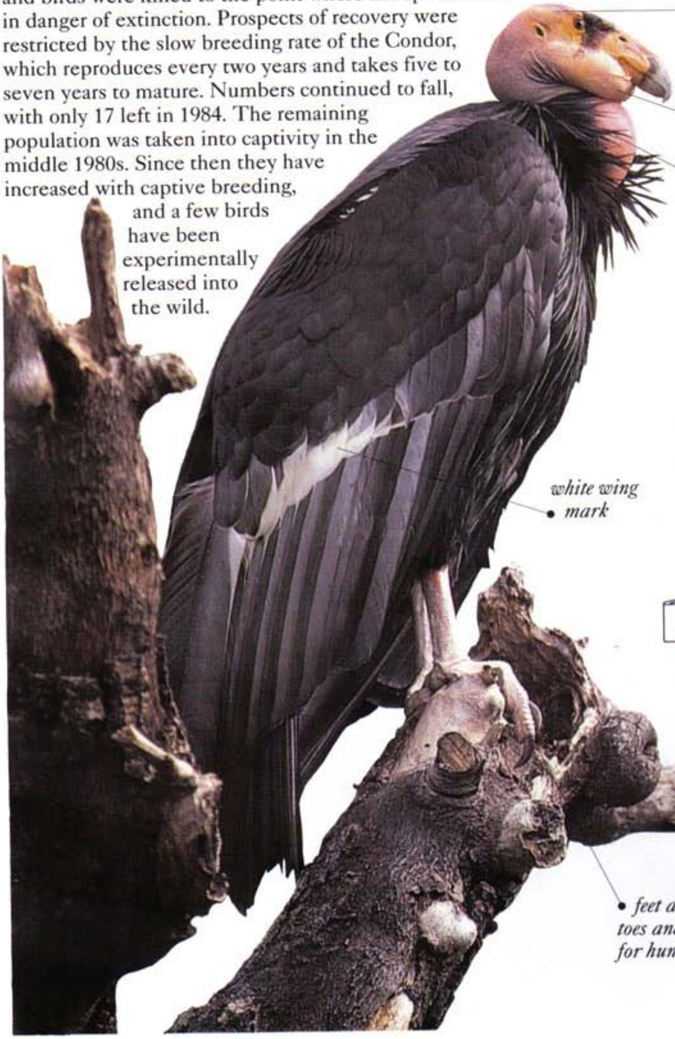
CALIFORNIA CONDOR

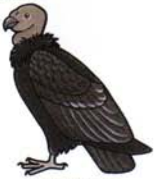


DISTRIBUTION

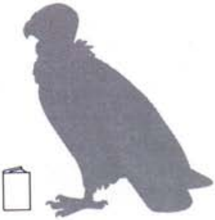
In its natural state this large, carrion-eating bird lives by cruising over a wide area to find food. It cannot gain the required height without calm, warm weather and rising air currents on which to soar and circle upward. On cold or very windy days, the Condor has to remain on the ground. When not foraging, it spends long periods idling or preening its feathers at a roost site.

- **NEST** A single egg is laid on the ground, on a rock ledge, or in a cave.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. USA (but now mainly found in captivity).
- **REMARK** The California Condor was considered a threat to livestock and birds were killed to the point where the species was in danger of extinction. Prospects of recovery were restricted by the slow breeding rate of the Condor, which reproduces every two years and takes five to seven years to mature. Numbers continued to fall, with only 17 left in 1984. The remaining population was taken into captivity in the middle 1980s. Since then they have increased with captive breeding, and a few birds have been experimentally released into the wild.


bare head of a scavenging bird
inflated throat pouch
bare neck
white wing mark
feet are very large, with long toes and claws, but are too weak for hunting live prey



JUVENILE



Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

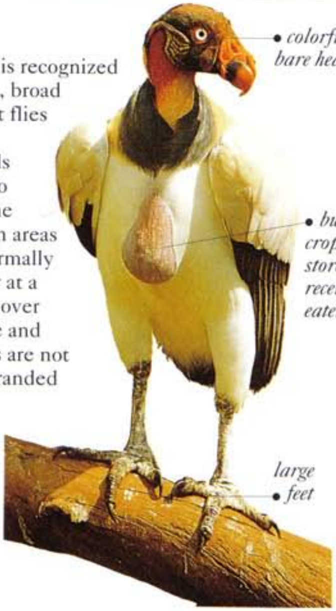
Migration Non-migrant

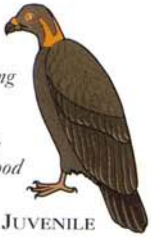
Family CATHARTIDAE	Species *Sarcoramphus papa*	Length 30 in (75 cm)

KING VULTURE

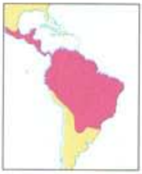
Living chiefly in rain forest, this vulture is recognized by pied plumage, a brightly colored head, broad wings, and a short tail. In calm weather, it flies low over the treetops or descends to the forest floor to feed. On warm days, it finds rising air currents (thermals) and circles to gain height. Foraging birds often leave the forest for tropical grassland, particularly in areas where cattle are ranched. Though not normally sociable, King Vultures sometimes gather at a large carcass. Here they take precedence over other species because of their greater size and strength. Within the forest, King Vultures are not easily observed, but are known to take stranded fish from sandbanks in forest rivers. They are also thought to kill small reptiles and young mammals.

- **NEST** Few data recorded; where observed, the single egg has been placed in a hollow in a forest tree stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mexico to N. Argentina.


colorful, bare head
bulging crop stores recently eaten food
large feet



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

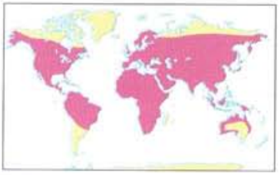
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PANDIONIDAE	Species *Pandion haliaetus*	L. 20 in (50 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

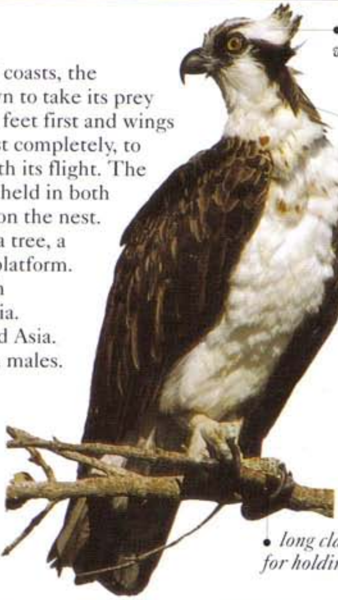
OSPREY

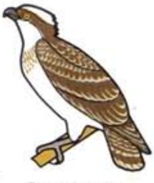
Often soaring over lakes, rivers, and coasts, the Osprey is a fish hawk, swooping down to take its prey from the water. It plunge-dives with feet first and wings raised, often submerging itself almost completely, to reappear with a fish and continue with its flight. The prey is usually carried head forward, held in both feet, to be eaten on a tree branch or on the nest.

- **NEST** A mass of sticks placed on a tree, a seashore, a crag, or an artificial nest platform.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America, Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. Winters in South America, Africa, and Asia.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.



DISTRIBUTION


crest pushed up by the wind (normally lies flat)
dark band through the eye and down to the nape
long claws for holding fish



JUVENILE

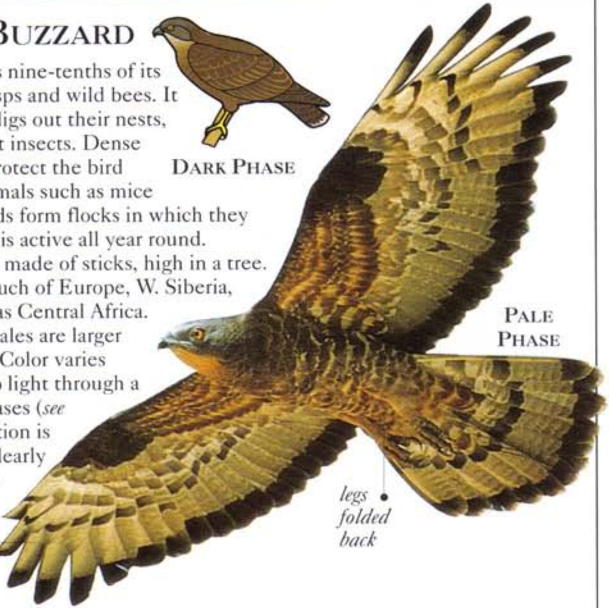
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≈ ≈	Migration Migrant

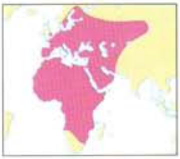
Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Pernis apivorus*	L. 20 in (50 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

WESTERN HONEY-BUZZARD

This unusual bird of prey obtains nine-tenths of its food by attacking the nests of wasps and wild bees. It watches and follows the insects, digs out their nests, and takes honey, young, and adult insects. Dense leg feathering and heavy scales protect the bird from stings. It also eats larger animals such as mice and frogs. After breeding, the birds form flocks in which they migrate to areas where their prey is active all year round.

- **NEST** A large, untidy cup nest made of sticks, high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Europe, W. Siberia, and C. Asia. Winters as far south as Central Africa.
- **REMARKS** Females are larger than males. Color varies from dark to light through a series of phases (*see p. 13*). Variation is seen most clearly underneath the wing.





DISTRIBUTION

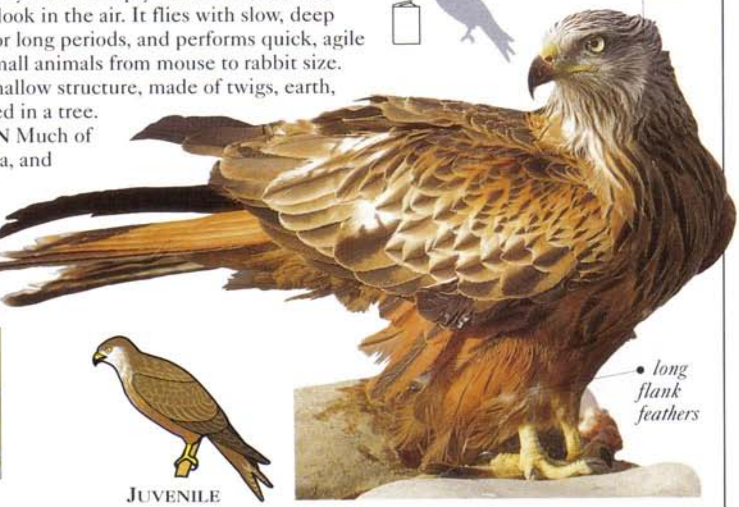
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Migrant

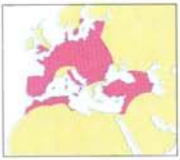
Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Milvus milvus*	L. 23 in (58 cm)/26 in (65 cm)

RED KITE

A slender bird of prey with a deeply forked tail, the Red Kite has a graceful look in the air. It flies with slow, deep wingbeats, glides for long periods, and performs quick, agile swoops to snatch small animals from mouse to rabbit size.

- **NEST** A large, shallow structure, made of twigs, earth, and wool, and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe, N.W. Africa, and the Middle East.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.





DISTRIBUTION

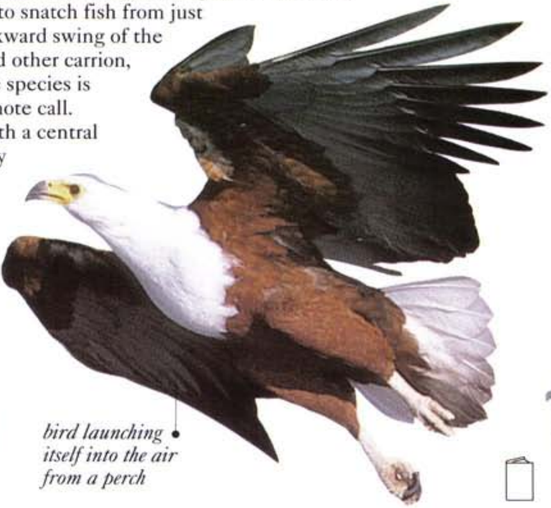
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Haliaeetus vocifer*	L. 25 in (63 cm)/ 30 in (75 cm)

AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE

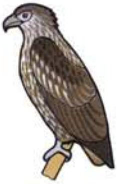
Most often seen singly or in pairs on high branches in its waterside territory, this is a specialized, fish-eating eagle. Watching from a perch more often than hunting in flight, it swoops to snatch fish from just beneath the surface, using a backward swing of the feet. It also eats stranded fish and other carrion, as well as killing waterbirds. The species is well known for its yelping, four-note call.

- **NEST** A large pile of sticks with a central bowl, lined with grass and usually placed in a tree near water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.



bird launching itself into the air from a perch

DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

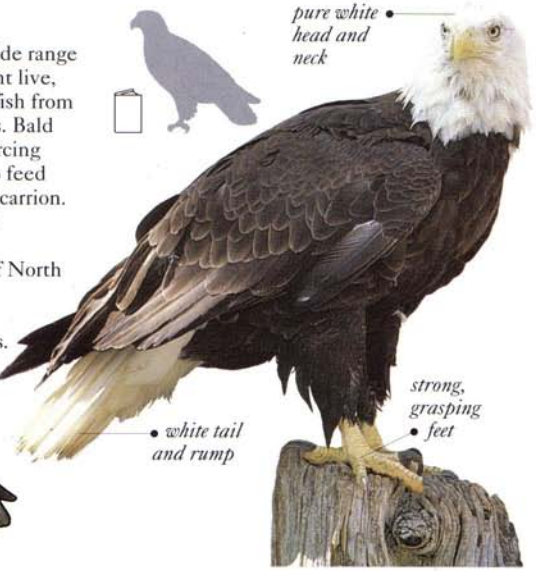
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	L. 30 in (75 cm)/43 in (110 cm)

BALD EAGLE

This large eagle gets its food from a wide range of sources. Most of its victims are caught live, including ducks, gulls, other seabirds, fish from lakes or the sea, and salmon from rivers. Bald Eagles challenge Ospreys (*see p. 88*), forcing them to abandon their catch. They also feed on dead and dying fish as well as other carrion.

- **NEST** A large structure of sticks and twigs, situated in a tree close to water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of North America. Northern populations winter in S. USA and parts of Mexico.
- **REMARK** Females larger than males.

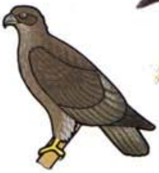


pure white head and neck

white tail and rump

strong, grasping feet

DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

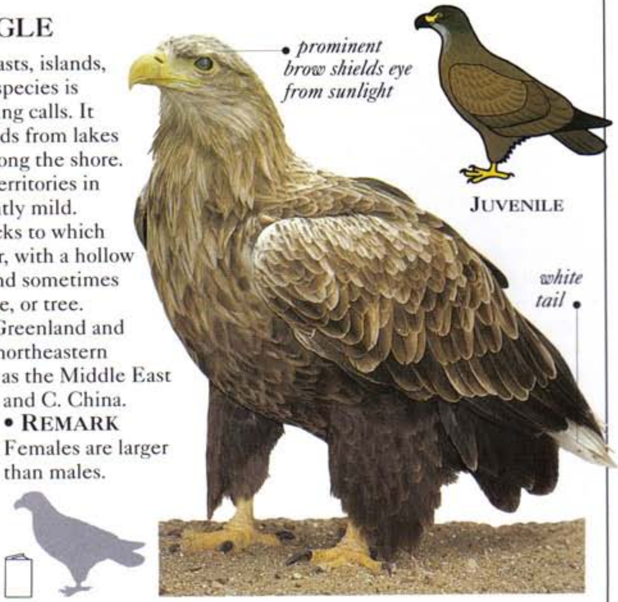
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Haliaeetus albicilla*	L. 28 in (70 cm)/36 in (91 cm)

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

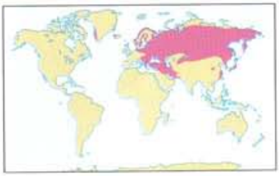
A large, heavy eagle of rocky coasts, islands, estuaries, and inland lakes, this species is recognized by its repeated, yelping calls. It is adept at snatching fish and birds from lakes and the sea, and seeks carrion along the shore. Pairs stay permanently in their territories in areas where winters are sufficiently mild.

- **NEST** A large structure of sticks to which more material is added each year, with a hollow in the center, lined with twigs and sometimes wool, placed on a cliff, rock ledge, or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Greenland and N. Eurasia. Some northern and northeastern populations migrate as far south as the Middle East and C. China.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.


prominent brow shields eye from sunlight

JUVENILE

white tail


DISTRIBUTION

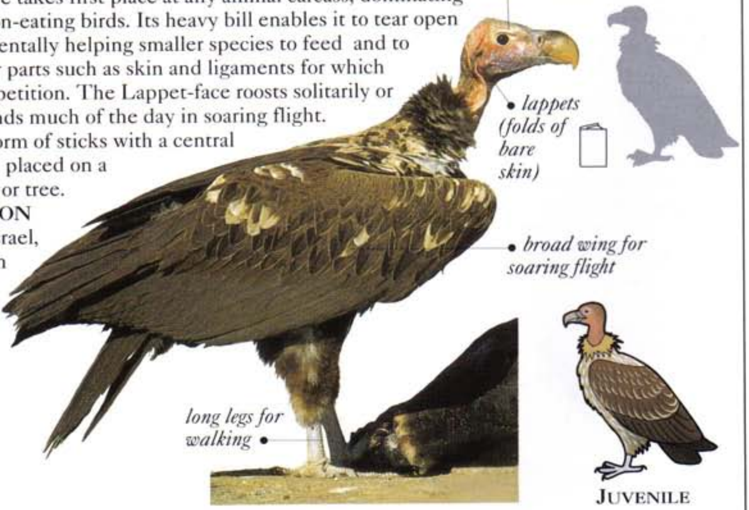
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Torgos tracheliotus*	Length 39 in (98 cm)

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE

This large vulture takes first place at any animal carcass, dominating the smaller carrion-eating birds. Its heavy bill enables it to tear open the carcass, incidentally helping smaller species to feed and to consume tougher parts such as skin and ligaments for which there is less competition. The Lappet-face roosts solitarily or in pairs, and spends much of the day in soaring flight.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks with a central hollow, lined and placed on a flat-topped bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa, Israel, S. and W. Arabian Peninsula.

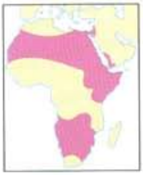

bare head and neck of a scavenger

lappets (folds of bare skin)

broad wing for soaring flight

long legs for walking

JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

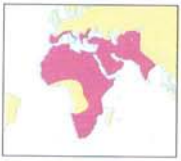
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE | Species *Neophron percnopterus* | L. 25 in (63 cm)/28 in (70 cm)

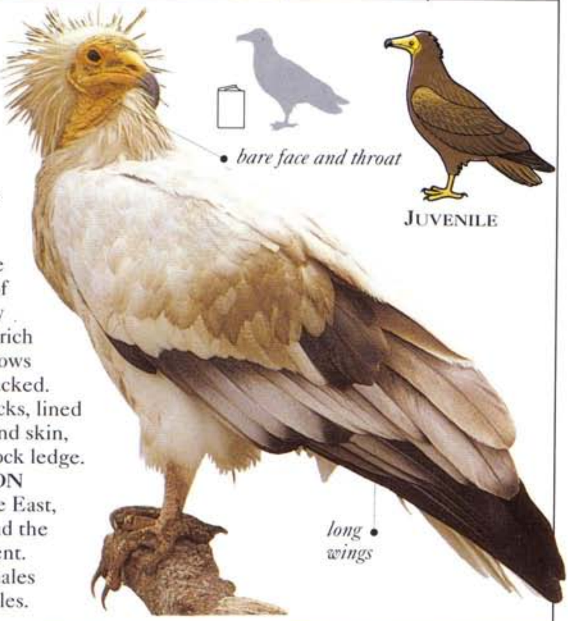
EGYPTIAN VULTURE

A small vulture with a bare face and shaggy neck feathering, this species occurs in open plains and semidesert. It cannot compete with larger vultures at an animal carcass. On the other hand, being smaller, it is less dependent on rising currents of warm air to gain height and starts flying soon after dawn, so reaching the carrion first. It raids nesting colonies of birds, seizing chicks and carrying away eggs in its bill. When attacking an Ostrich nest, it lifts stones with its bill and throws them about until one of the eggs is cracked.

- **NEST** A small platform made of sticks, lined with dung, hair, and skin, and placed on a rock ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Europe, Middle East, Africa, W. Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.



DISTRIBUTION



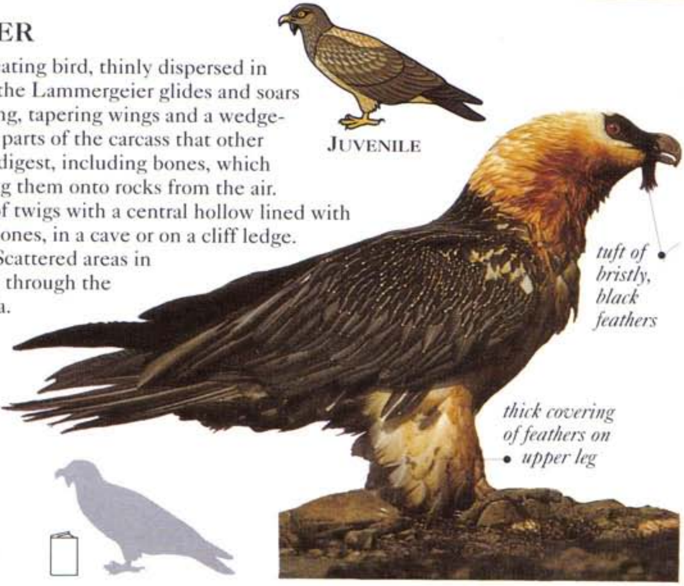
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

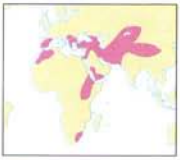
Family ACCIPITRIDAE | Species *Gypaetus barbatus* | L. 39 in (100 cm)/43 in (110 cm)

LAMMERGEIER

A very large carrion-eating bird, thinly dispersed in its mountain habitat, the Lammergeier glides and soars for long periods on long, tapering wings and a wedge-shaped tail. It can eat parts of the carcass that other carrion-eaters cannot digest, including bones, which it smashes by dropping them onto rocks from the air.

- **NEST** A platform of twigs with a central hollow lined with grass, hair, skin, and bones, in a cave or on a cliff ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas in S. Europe, Africa, and through the Middle East to C. Asia.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.


JUVENILE
tuft of bristly, black feathers
thick covering of feathers on upper leg



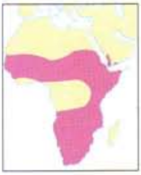
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Terathopius ecaudatus*	L. 22 in (55 cm)/28 in (70 cm)

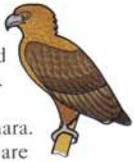
BATELEUR

Beautifully adapted for prolonged and fast gliding and for agility in the air, this small eagle inhabits scrub, open woodland, and savanna (tropical and subtropical grassland) with scattered trees. It roosts in trees and is on the wing for most of the day, crisscrossing the same area in very fast, gliding flight as it searches for prey. The shortness of the tail gives the Bateleur an "all-wings" appearance in flight and causes the gliding bird to swerve first to one side, then to the other. The bird swoops on its prey, sometimes from a great height, intercepting birds in flight, and taking reptiles, small mammals, and large insects from the ground. Pairs in courtship perform spectacular aerial maneuvers, from which the name Bateleur (French for juggler or acrobat) is derived.

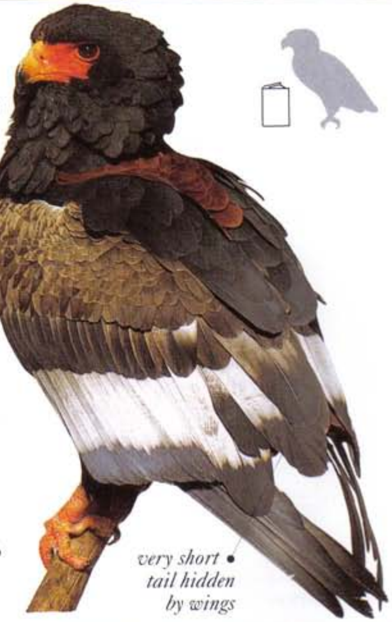


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A cup nest made of twigs, lined with leaves, and placed in the canopy of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.



JUVENILE



very short tail hidden by wings

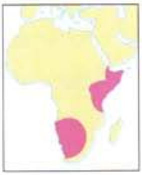
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Melierax canorus*	L. 20 in (50 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

PALE CHANTING-GOSHAWK

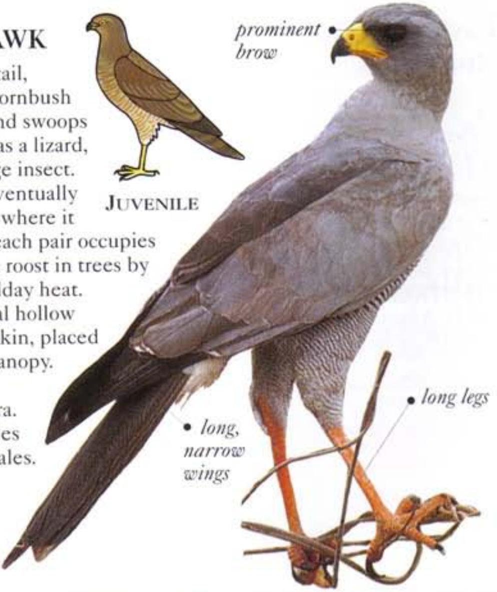
This is a large hawk with long wings and tail, inhabiting open landscapes such as arid thornbush and semidesert. It watches from a perch and swoops in rapid flight to take a small animal such as a lizard, bird, or mammal, or sometimes even a large insect. The bird follows through with its flight, eventually landing on a new perch or circling back to where it began. Adults generally live in pairs, and each pair occupies its own territory. Pale Chanting-Goshawks roost in trees by night, and rest in shady foliage during midday heat.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks with a central hollow which is lined with hair, dung, grass, and skin, placed in the fork of a thorn tree just below the canopy.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.



DISTRIBUTION

JUVENILE



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

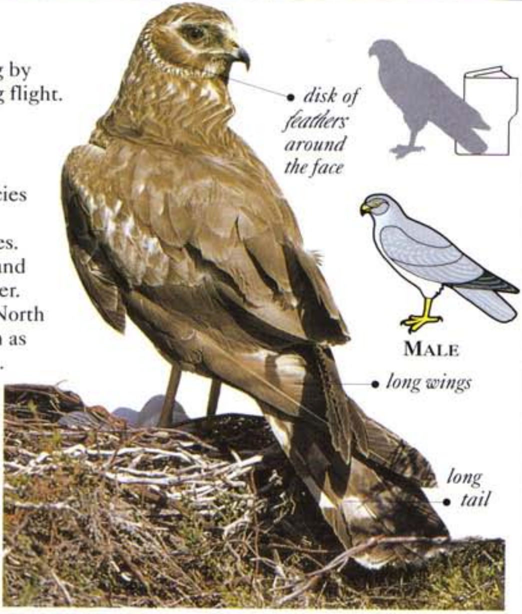
Species *Circus cyaneus*

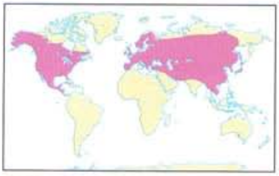
L. 17 in (43 cm)/20 in (50 cm)

NORTHERN HARRIER

This species is a typical harrier, hunting by searching the ground in low, fast, gliding flight. The wings are usually held in a shallow V shape. This method enables the bird to surprise small or disabled birds, small rodents, and even large insects. The species occurs in open landscapes such as moors, marshes, steppe grassland, and sand dunes.

- **NEST** A mound of small twigs, grass, and reeds, placed on the ground in dense cover.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as Central America, N. Africa, and S.E. Asia.
- **REMARK** Females larger than males.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ

Habitat

Migration Migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE

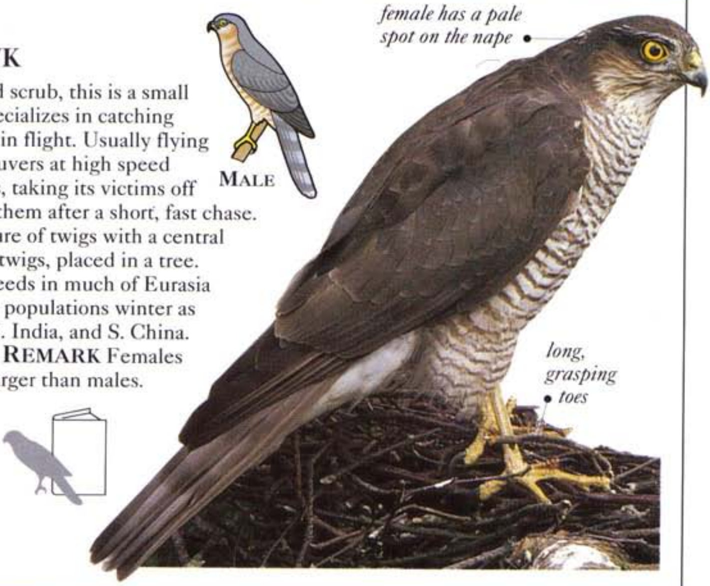
Species *Accipiter nisus*

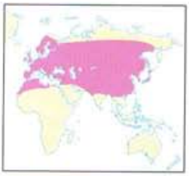
L. 11 in (28 cm)/15 in (38 cm)

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK

Living in woodland and scrub, this is a small species of hawk that specializes in catching birds (often passerines) in flight. Usually flying at a low height, it maneuvers at high speed among trees and bushes, taking its victims off their guard and seizing them after a short, fast chase.

- **NEST** A loose structure of twigs with a central hollow, lined with finer twigs, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Eurasia and N. Africa. Northern populations winter as far south as N. Africa, N. India, and S. China.
- **REMARK** Females larger than males.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ

Habitat

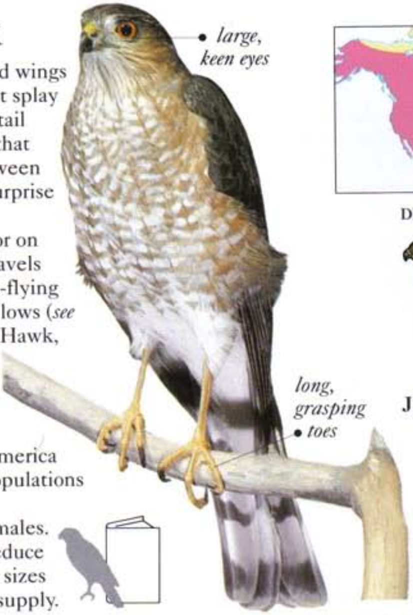
Migration Partial migrant

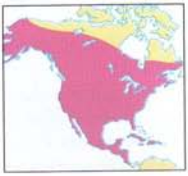
Family **ACCIPITRIDAE** | Species *Accipiter striatus* | L. 10½ in (27 cm)/13½ in (34 cm)

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK

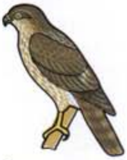
This small, bird-hunting hawk has broad wings with narrow-tipped primary feathers that splay out like fingers when the bird soars. Its tail is long and broad. It is a woodland bird that hunts by maneuvering in low flight between trees and bushes, taking songbirds by surprise and capturing them in brief, sprinting chases. In higher and more open flight or on migration, it seems to lack power and travels slowly. As it passes, parties of small, fast-flying birds such as Common Starlings or Swallows (*see pp. 270, 375*) "mob" the Sharp-shinned Hawk, flocking round it with mock attacks.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks and twigs, lined with bark, smaller twigs, and feathers, and built in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and Mexico. Northern and mountain populations winter in southern parts of this range.
- **REMARKS** Females are larger than males. Observations reveal that the two sexes reduce competition by taking slightly different sizes of prey, thus sharing the available food supply.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

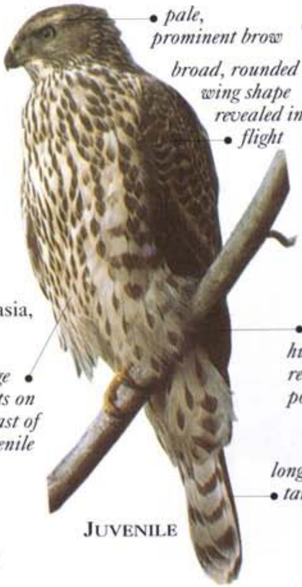
Plumage Sexes differ slightly | Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳 🌳 | Migration Partial migrant

Family **ACCIPITRIDAE** | Species *Accipiter gentilis* | L. 19 in (48 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

NORTHERN GOSHAWK

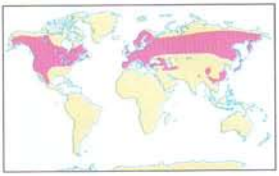
A large relative of the Eurasian Sparrowhawk, this bird lives in mature, tall forest. It hunts in forests, at the forest edge, and in adjoining areas of open country. Its main prey are birds in flight. The Goshawk either flies low, taking a bird by surprise, or watches from a high perch in a tree and swoops on its victim. Prey includes crows, jays, pigeons, thrushes, grouse, pheasants, squirrels, and rabbits.

- **NEST** A platform of twigs and sticks, lined with bark, smaller twigs, and feathers, built in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America, Eurasia, and N. Africa. Northern populations migrate south.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.

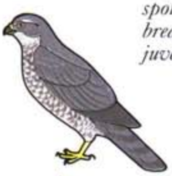


pale, prominent brow
broad, rounded wing shape revealed in flight
typical hunched resting posture
large spots on breast of juvenile
long tail

JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

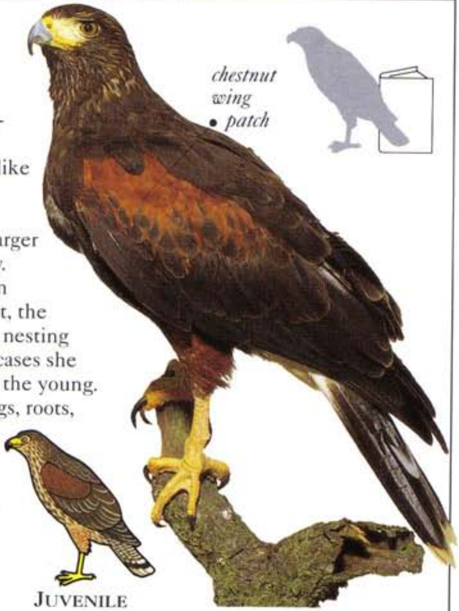


ADULT

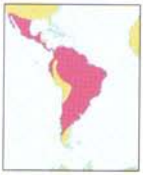
Plumage Sexes differ slightly | Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳 | Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE | Species *Parabuteo unicinctus* | L. 17½ in (45 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

HARRIS' HAWK



This is a heavily built hawk of the tropics and subtropics, living in dry regions including semidesert, semi-arid woodland, and scrub. It is a fast-flying hunter that swoops from a perch to pursue desert rabbits, rats, snakes, lizards, and birds. Unlike other hawks, this species has a strong pattern of cooperative behavior, in which it is common for three birds to hunt together and share the kill. Larger family parties have been seen hunting in this way. Groups work together to catch prey that has taken cover, one bird approaching directly to drive it out, the others hanging back, ready to give chase. Often a nesting female is fed by two or more males, and in some cases she mates with two males. The whole group cares for the young.



DISTRIBUTION

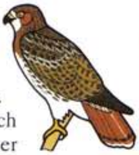
- **NEST** A neat structure of twigs, roots, and stalks, lined with leaves, grass, and bark, in a tree or on top of a tall yucca or cactus.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From USA south through Central America to Chile and Argentina.
- **REMARK** Females are considerably larger than males.

JUVENILE

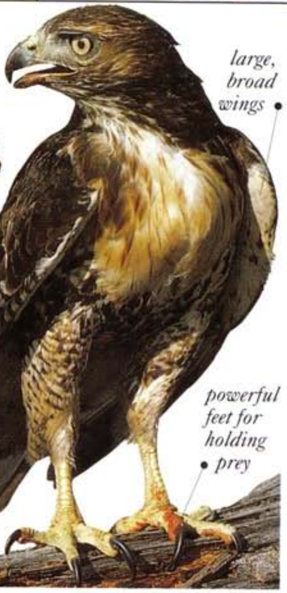
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE | Species *Buteo jamaicensis* | L. 19 in (48 cm)/25 in (63 cm)

RED-TAILED HAWK

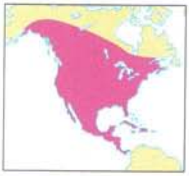


ADULT



A typical open-country bird of prey, this species commonly seeks out rising air currents (thermals) on which it circles and soars while looking for prey. Alternatively, it often perches high in a tree to watch for its prey. Any animal that moves is taken, whether mammal, reptile, bird, or large insect. As well as occurring in open landscapes, the Red-tailed Hawk is found in mixed country with both fields and trees, and in semidesert, especially where there are scattered trees.

- **NEST** A bulky platform made of sticks, with a cup-shaped hollow lined with finer twigs and stalks, sited in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North and Central America and the Caribbean. Some populations migrate within this range.
- **REMARKS** Females larger than males. Color phases (*see p. 13*) are dark, rufous, and light. Subspecies include Harlan's Hawk, found in Alaska and W. Canada, which lacks the red tail.



DISTRIBUTION

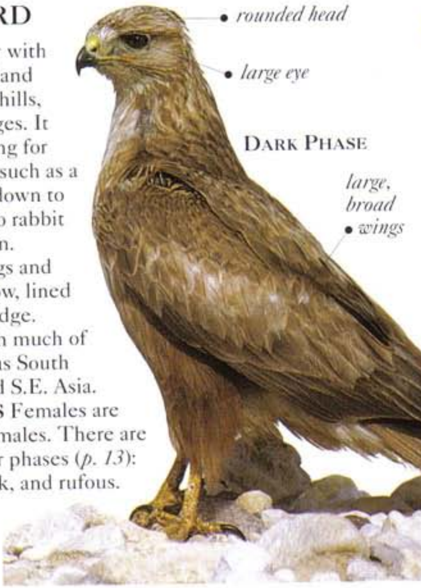
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

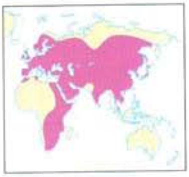
Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Buteo buteo*	L. 20 in (50 cm)/22 in (55 cm)

COMMON BUZZARD

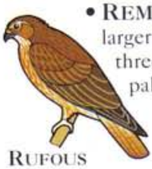
This stoutly built bird of prey with broad, bluntly rounded wings and a wide tail is seen over fields, hills, forest clearings, and forest edges. It soars for hours, slowly searching for prey, or watches from a perch such as a tree or post before swooping down to take any animal from beetle to rabbit size. Small carrion is also taken.

- **NEST** A bulky mass of twigs and roots, with a cup-shaped hollow, lined and sited on a tree or a cliff ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Eurasia. Winters as far south as South Africa, India, and S.E. Asia.
- **REMARKS** Females are larger than males. There are three color phases (*p. 13*): pale, dark, and rufous.





DISTRIBUTION



RUFOUS PHASE

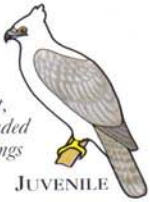
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Harpia harpyja*	L. 35 in (90 cm)/40 in (102 cm)

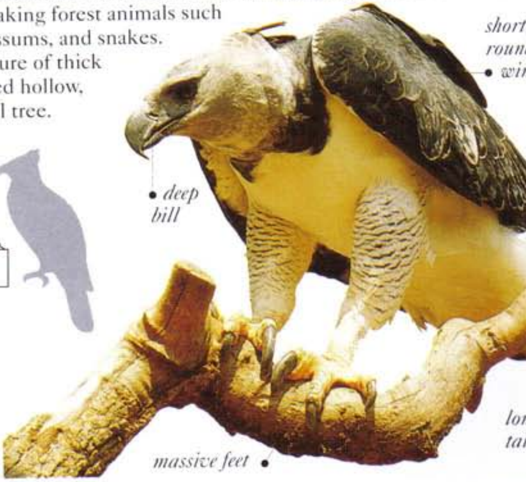
HARPY EAGLE

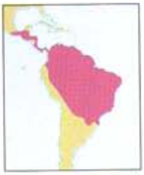
A huge eagle with powerful feet and talons, this is the dominant bird of prey in the rain forests of Central and South America. It flies among trees and branches with agility, taking forest animals such as monkeys, sloths, possums, and snakes.

- **NEST** A large structure of thick sticks with a cup-shaped hollow, high in the fork of a tall tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Mexico to N. Argentina.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.



JUVENILE





DISTRIBUTION

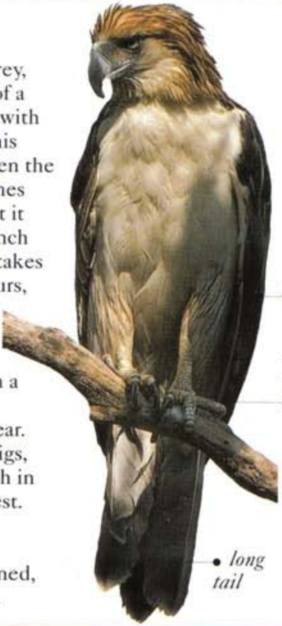
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Pithecophaga jefferyi*	L. 37 in (95 cm)/40 in (102 cm)

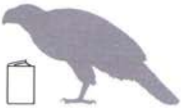
PHILIPPINE EAGLE

One of the largest of the world's birds of prey, this rain forest eagle has the typical shape of a forest-dwelling raptor. The wings are large with broad, rounded tips, and the tail is long. This combination provides speed and agility when the bird maneuvers among the branches. At times the eagle is seen soaring over the forest, but it hunts mainly in the trees, moving from branch to branch and pausing to watch for prey. It takes forest animals such as monkeys, flying lemurs, and large birds up to hornbill size and is sometimes known as the Monkey-eating Eagle. The Philippine Eagle utters long, drawn-out whistles that seem weak for such a powerful bird. A single egg is laid, and the species probably nests only every second year.

- **NEST** A bulky structure of sticks and twigs, lined and placed in the fork of a large branch in a tree rising above the surrounding rain forest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Philippine Islands.
- **REMARKS** Females are slightly larger than males. This species is rare and threatened, chiefly because of the felling of rain forests.


broad, rounded wings for maneuvering among branches of forest trees
large, strong feet
long tail

DISTRIBUTION



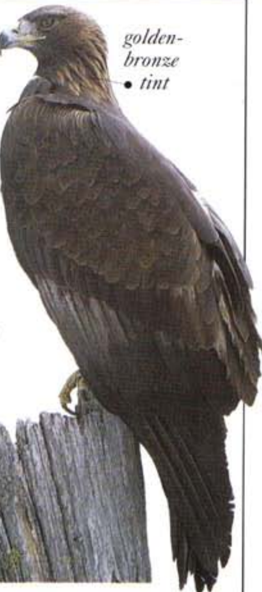
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

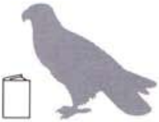
Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Aquila chrysaetos*	L. 30 in (75 cm)/35 in (90 cm)

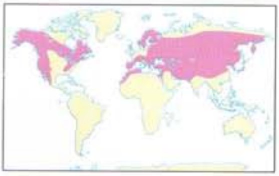
GOLDEN EAGLE

Adapted for hunting in open landscapes at high altitudes, this eagle is a strong and skillful flier, often seeming to plunge and dive in turbulent winds for sheer pleasure. Its typical hunting method is to fly fast and low, closing in on prey with a slanting dive. The eagle grips its prey with outstretched feet. Mammals such as hares are the main prey, but grouse and many birds, as well as carrion in winter, are also taken. The Golden Eagle is usually silent, but occasionally utters a yelping call.

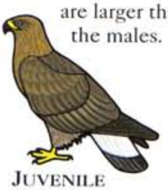
- **NEST** A large nest made of sticks, lined with finer materials, and placed on a cliff or in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of North America, Eurasia, N. Africa, and the Middle East. Populations in N., C., and E. Eurasia migrate, wintering as far south as the Himalayas and China.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than the males.







DISTRIBUTION

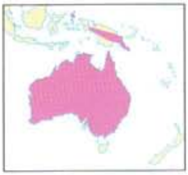


JUVENILE

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲	Migration Partial migrant

Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Hieraaetus morphnoides*	L. 18½ in (47 cm)/21 in (53 cm)

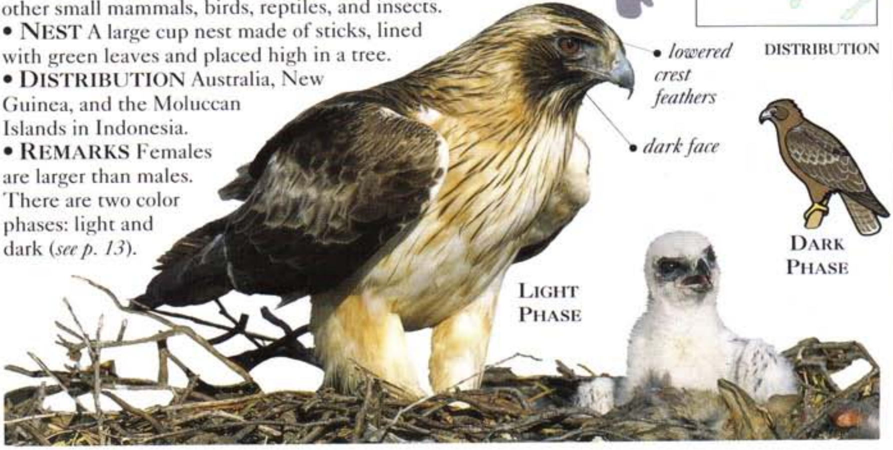
LITTLE EAGLE



DISTRIBUTION

This is a small, compact eagle with a short crest and fully feathered legs. It frequents partly wooded country, soaring and gliding to watch for prey on the ground below, or hunting from a perch. Approaching in low flight, it takes young rabbits and other small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.

- **NEST** A large cup nest made of sticks, lined with green leaves and placed high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, New Guinea, and the Moluccan Islands in Indonesia.
- **REMARKS** Females are larger than males. There are two color phases: light and dark (*see p. 13*).



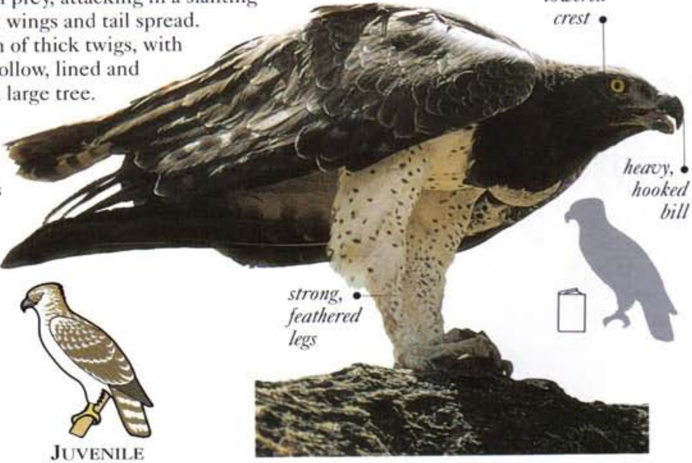
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

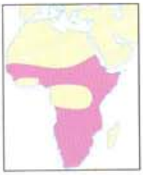
Family ACCIPITRIDAE	Species *Polemaetus bellicosus*	L. 31 in (80 cm)/33 in (83 cm)

MARTIAL EAGLE

A large eagle of open country, with a shaggy crest and feathered legs, this bird watches for prey by soaring and gliding, occasionally waiting on a perch. It takes a wide range of animal prey, attacking in a slanting dive and striking with wings and tail spread.

- **NEST** A large basin of thick twigs, with a small, cup-shaped hollow, lined and placed in the fork of a large tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** Females are marginally larger than the males.



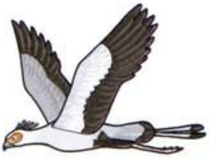


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family SAGITTARIIDAE	Species *Sagittarius serpentarius*	Length 59 in (150 cm)

SECRETARY BIRD



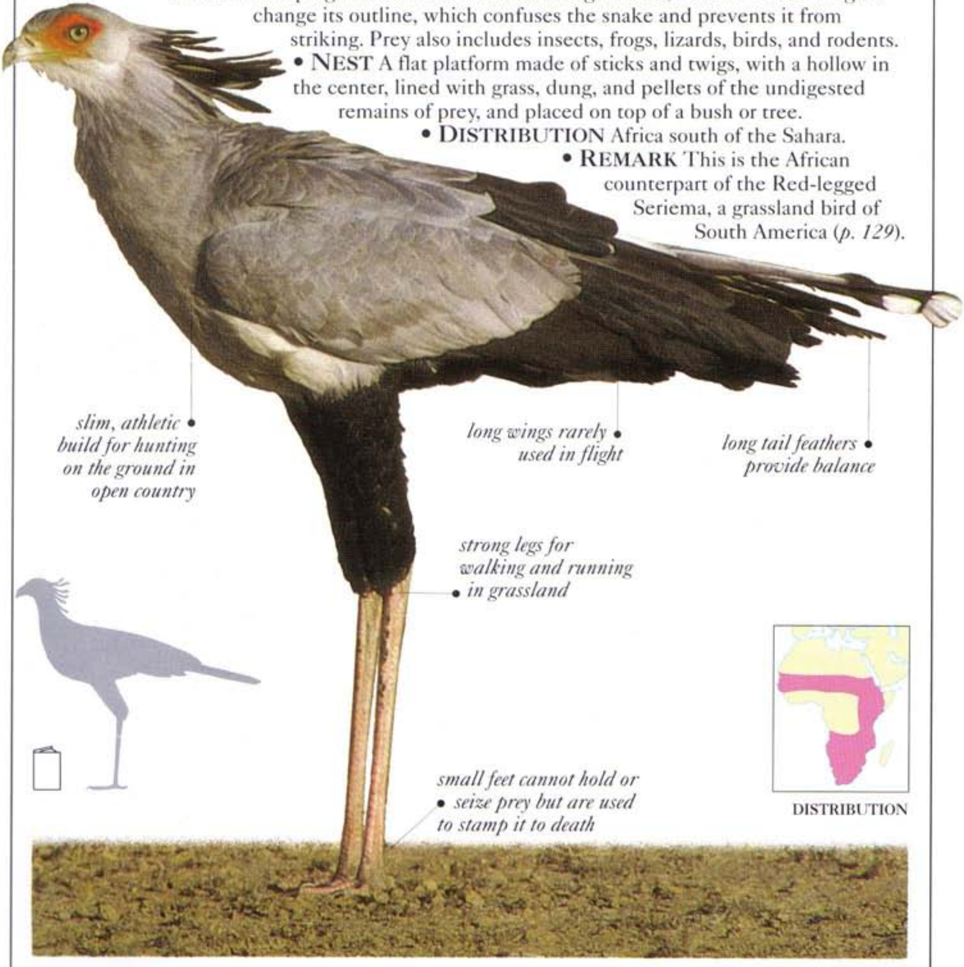
FLYING ADULT

This large species, inhabiting grassland and open spaces, is an unusual type of bird of prey that has adapted itself so fully to a life of hunting on the ground that it rarely flies. This has resulted in its unusual appearance, with a tall, slender build, long legs, small feet, and long neck. The long wings and tail are useful mainly for keeping balance when the bird is walking, running, hunting, or engaged in territorial fights, which always take place on the ground. Flight is mainly restricted to visiting trees to roost and nest. The name of this species dates from pre-industrial times, when secretaries were court officials who carried quill pens tucked behind their ears. The Secretary Bird walks with a steady stride, nodding its head forward with each step. It catches and kills prey on the ground, using its bill or stamping with its feet. When catching a snake, it holds out its wings to change its outline, which confuses the snake and prevents it from striking. Prey also includes insects, frogs, lizards, birds, and rodents.

• **NEST** A flat platform made of sticks and twigs, with a hollow in the center, lined with grass, dung, and pellets of the undigested remains of prey, and placed on top of a bush or tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.

• **REMARK** This is the African counterpart of the Red-legged Seriema, a grassland bird of South America (*p. 129*).


slim, athletic build for hunting on the ground in open country
long wings rarely used in flight
long tail feathers provide balance
strong legs for walking and running in grassland
small feet cannot hold or seize prey but are used to stamp it to death

DISTRIBUTION

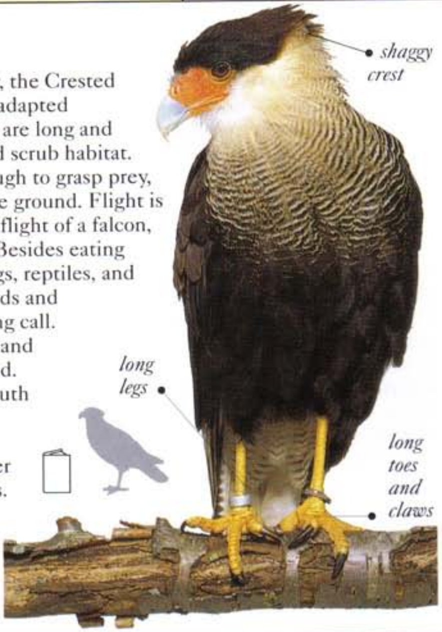
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

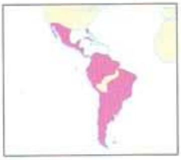
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Polyborus plancus*	L. 21 in (53 cm)/25 in (63 cm)

CRESTED CARACARA

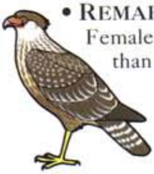
Feeding on carrion as well as on live-caught prey, the Crested Caracara is a member of the falcon family that is adapted for walking and hunting on the ground. The legs are long and suited to walking and running in its grassland and scrub habitat. The feet, like those of a falcon, are versatile enough to grasp prey, hold food down, turn objects over, and scratch the ground. Flight is direct, with steady wingbeats, unlike the soaring flight of a falcon, and reveals white patches on the wings and tail. Besides eating carrion, the Crested Caracara catches insects, frogs, reptiles, and weak or injured birds. It also robs the nests of birds and turtles. Its name is derived from its harsh, cackling call.

- **NEST** A large, untidy structure made of twigs and sticks, and placed either in a tree or on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. USA, and Central and South America to Cape Horn and the Falkland Islands.




DISTRIBUTION

- **REMARK** Females larger than males.


JUVENILE

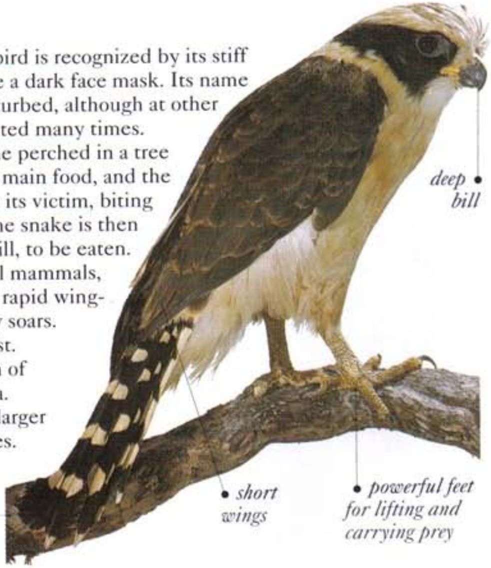
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

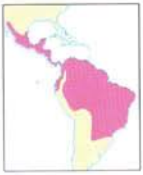
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Herpetotheres cachinnans*	L. 18 in (46 cm)/22 in (55 cm)

LAUGHING FALCON

A large and heavily built forest falcon, this bird is recognized by its stiff crown feathers that form a bushy crest above a dark face mask. Its name refers to the laughing call it utters when disturbed, although at other times its call is a single or double note repeated many times. A sluggish species, it spends most of the time perched in a tree watching the ground for prey. Snakes are its main food, and the falcon swoops down and pounces heavily on its victim, biting it behind the head or biting the head off. The snake is then carried to a perch, either in the feet or the bill, to be eaten. The Laughing Falcon also eats lizards, small mammals, and invertebrates. It flies infrequently, with rapid wing-flaps alternating with level glides, and rarely soars.

- **NEST** A tree hollow, or a disused bird nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Central and South America.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.




DISTRIBUTION

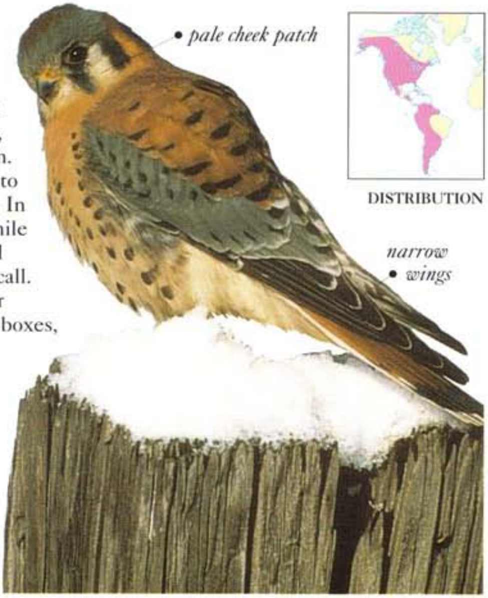
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco sparverius*	L. 11½ in (29 cm)/12½ in (32 cm)

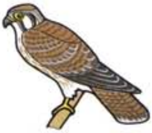
AMERICAN KESTREL

This small and beautifully patterned bird is one of the less powerful falcons, taking smaller and slower prey. It flies rapidly with quick downward wingbeats. When perched, it has a habit of wagging its tail up and down. When hunting, it often hovers and drops onto prey, less commonly watching from a perch. In summer, it feeds chiefly on large insects, while in winter it more often takes mice and small birds. It utters a repeated "klee" or "killy" call.

- **NEST** A bare hollow in a natural cavity or crevice. Pairs occasionally make use of nest boxes, or old nests of larger tree-nesting birds.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North, Central, and South America and Caribbean islands.
- **REMARK** Females are slightly larger than males.



DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

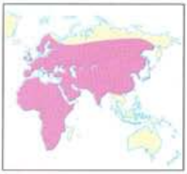
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

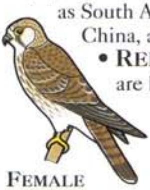
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco tinnunculus*	L. 13 in (33 cm)/ 14½ in (37 cm)

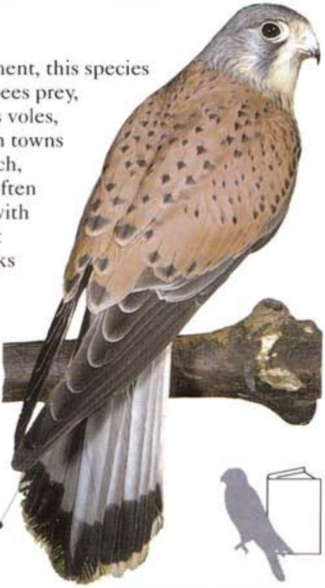
COMMON KESTREL

A bird of open country that has adapted to the town environment, this species is often seen searching the ground in flight, hovering until it sees prey, and dropping gradually before the final pounce. Prey includes voles, mice, and smaller creatures such as grasshoppers or beetles. In towns and suburbs, sparrows are often taken. Prey is carried to a perch, plucked if necessary, and eaten. For a resting place, the bird often selects a perch with a wide view. The Common Kestrel flies with small, rapid, downward wingbeats interspersed with glides. At times it soars on rising air currents. It is often mobbed by flocks of Common Starlings (*see p. 375*) or martins (*see pp. 269–270*).

- **NEST** A natural hollow on a ledge of a cliff or a building, a cavity in a tree trunk, or an old nest of a larger bird.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia and Africa. Northern and eastern populations winter as far south as South Africa, India, China, and Japan.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.


DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE



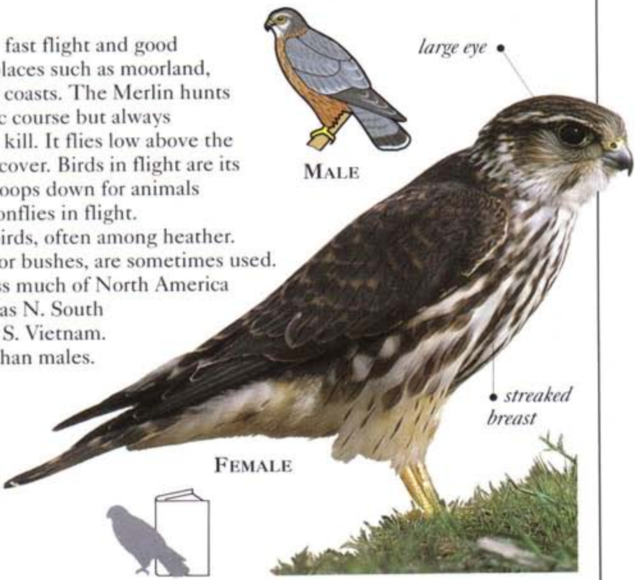
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

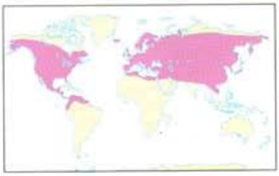
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco columbarius*	L. 10½ in (27 cm)/12½ in (32 cm)

MERLIN

This is a small, fierce falcon with fast flight and good hunting ability. It inhabits open places such as moorland, marshes, grassland, and low-lying coasts. The Merlin hunts in flight, often following an erratic course but always moving fast, and sprinting for the kill. It flies low above the ground, using trees and ridges as cover. Birds in flight are its most common prey, but it also swoops down for animals such as mice. It also catches dragonflies in flight.

- **NEST** A hollow made by the birds, often among heather. Old nests of larger birds, in trees or bushes, are sometimes used.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across much of North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as N. South America, N. Africa, N. India, and S. Vietnam.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.





DISTRIBUTION

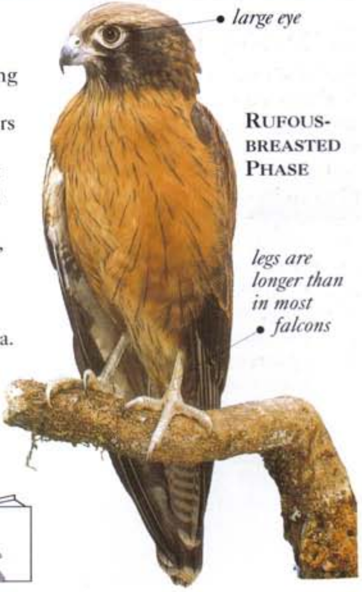
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

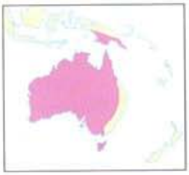
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco berigora*	L. 17 in (43 cm)/20 in (50 cm)

BROWN FALCON

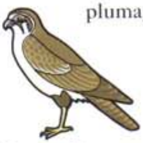
Although as big as the largest and fiercest falcons, including the Peregrine (*see p. 105*), this species is a less aggressive hunter and seeks smaller, slower-moving prey. It also differs from the typical falcons in having longer legs and broader wings. The Brown Falcon occupies a range of habitats but favors open landscapes. When hunting, it sits and watches from a high vantage point for long periods, swooping to the ground to take small mammals, young or injured birds, reptiles, and insects. The call is a harsh, cackling sound.

- **NEST** Old nests of other large birds, such as crows, are used. Brown Falcons sometimes nest on termite mounds.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. New Guinea and much of Australia.
- **REMARKS** Females are larger than males. Color phases (*see p. 13*) include light, rufous-breasted, and dark plumage.





DISTRIBUTION



LIGHT PHASE

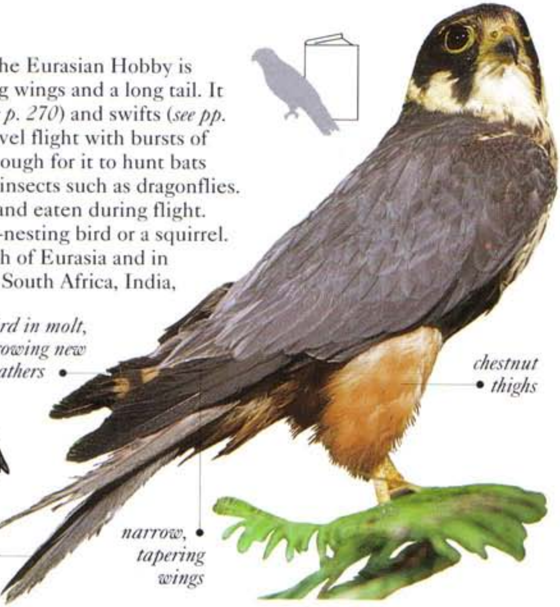
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

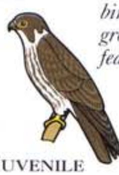
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco subbuteo*	L. 12 in (30 cm)/14½ in (37 cm)

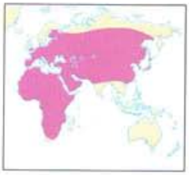
EURASIAN HOBBY

One of the small hunting falcons, the Eurasian Hobby is built for speed with narrow, tapering wings and a long tail. It is fast enough to catch swallows (*see p. 270*) and swifts (*see pp. 208–209*), moving very rapidly in level flight with bursts of fast wingbeats. Its vision is keen enough for it to hunt bats in poor light, and it also takes large insects such as dragonflies. These are often carried in the feet and eaten during flight.

- **NEST** An old nest of a large tree-nesting bird or a squirrel.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Eurasia and in N.W. Africa. Winters as far south as South Africa, India, S. China, and S. Vietnam.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.




JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

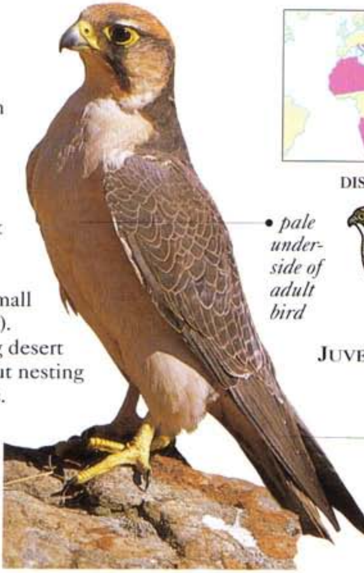
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

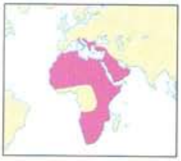
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco biarmicus*	L. 13½ in (34 cm)/20 in (50 cm)

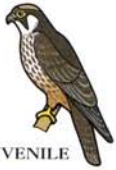
LANNER FALCON

A robust hunting falcon, the Lanner occurs in desert and savanna (tropical and subtropical grassland) with occasional rocky crags on which it perches and nests. The species also occurs in open woodland. Lanners hunt either by striking small birds in the air after a steep dive (stoop) or by seizing ground prey, which they approach in fast, low flight. Prey taken in flight includes fruit bats and winged termites as well as birds. Ground prey includes francolins (*see pp. 111–112*), guineafowl (*see p. 117*), and small bustards such as the Black Koorhaan (*see p. 130*). When birds are scarce, rats and large burrowing desert lizards are caught. Lanners are usually silent but nesting pairs utter shrill, screaming and chattering calls.

- **NEST** A hollow on a ledge on a cliff or building, or an old nest of a larger species.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Europe, Middle East, and much of Africa.
- **REMARK** Females are larger than males.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

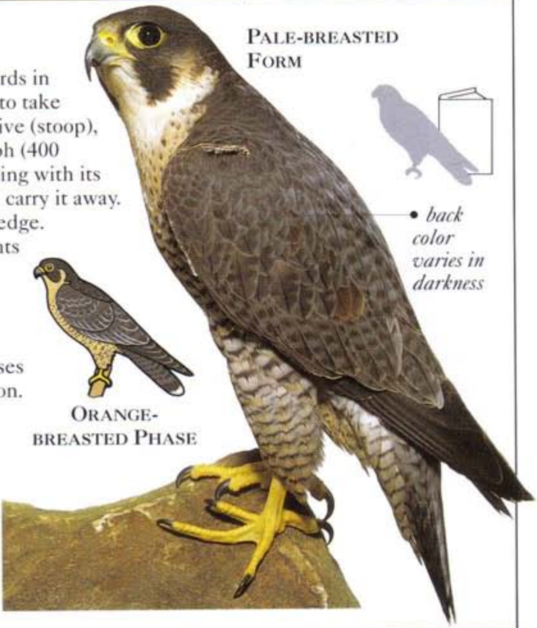
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

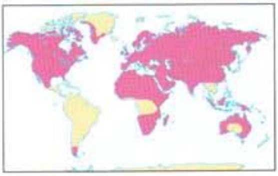
Family FALCONIDAE	Species *Falco peregrinus*	L. 15 in (38 cm)/19 in (48 cm)

PEREGRINE FALCON

This fierce and very fast hunter catches birds in the air by flying high overhead and diving to take them by surprise. In the final stage of its dive (stoop), it is believed to attain speeds up to 250 mph (400 km/h). The falcon strikes its victim in passing with its feet, returning to catch the falling bird and carry it away.

- **NEST** Typically a bare place on a rock ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in all continents except Antarctica. Some winter migration.
- **REMARKS** Females are larger than males. This is the main species used in falconry. Breast varies from pale to orange among the many subspecies and color phases (*see p. 13*) found within the wide distribution.





DISTRIBUTION

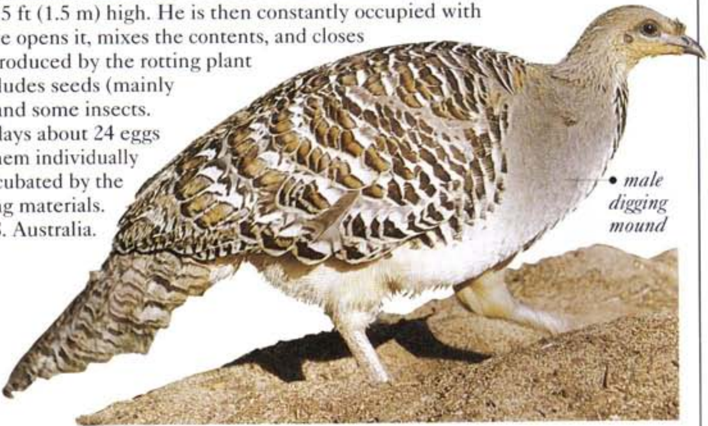
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

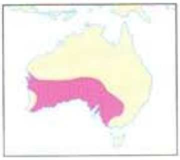
Family MEGAPODIIDAE	Species *Leipoa ocellata*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

MALLEEFOWL

This is a mound-building bird of the Australian mallee (dry scrub of dwarf eucalyptus trees). Pairs live in territories, apparently mated for life. The male scratches twigs and leaves backwards to fill a hole, and after these have been moistened by rain he covers the material with soil to form a nest mound some 16½ ft (5 m) wide and 5 ft (1.5 m) high. He is then constantly occupied with tending the mound. He opens it, mixes the contents, and closes it to control the heat produced by the rotting plant material. The diet includes seeds (mainly acacia), buds, shoots, and some insects.

- **NEST** The female lays about 24 eggs each season, burying them individually in the mound, to be incubated by the warmth of the decaying materials.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

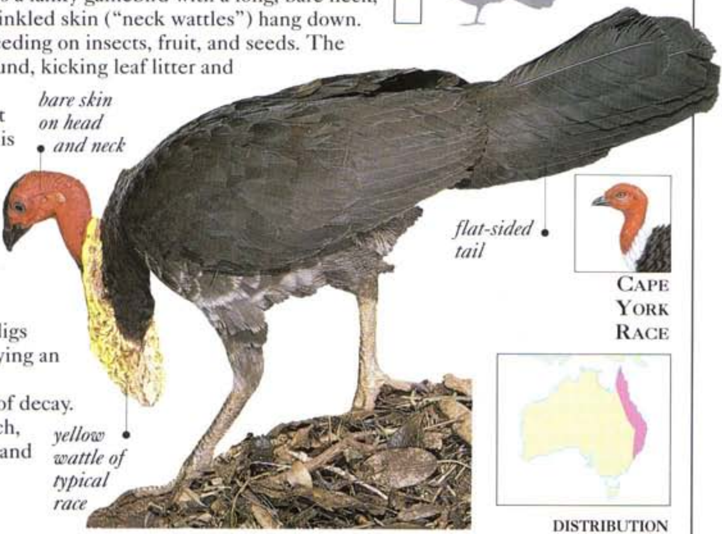
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family MEGAPODIIDAE	Species *Alectura lathami*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

AUSTRALIAN BRUSH-TURKEY

This species resembles a lanky gamebird with a long, bare neck, from which folds of wrinkled skin ("neck wattles") hang down. It is a forest dweller, feeding on insects, fruit, and seeds. The male scratches the ground, kicking leaf litter and mold behind him to form a nest mound that may be several times his height. This material rots and becomes warm, and he tests it with his bill, keeping the temperature constant by adding or removing material.

- **NEST** The female digs holes in the mound, laying an egg in each one, to be incubated by the heat of decay. The downy chicks hatch, dig their own way out, and fend for themselves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.E. and E. Australia.



CAPE YORK RACE

DISTRIBUTION

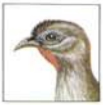
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

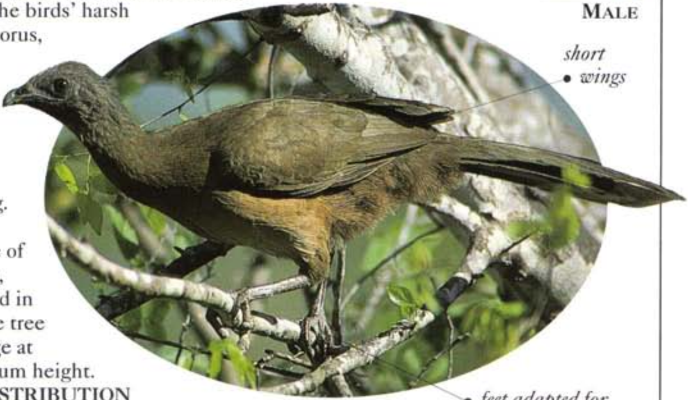
Family CRACIDAE	Species *Ortalis vetula*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

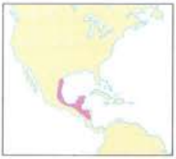
PLAIN CHACHALACA

Looking like a slender gamebird with long neck, legs, and tail, this species inhabits forest, scrub, and thickets, spending much of its time aboveground. It usually occurs in small parties, walking along branches and feeding on fruit, buds, and leaves. The name is a version of the birds' harsh call, which is uttered in chorus, mostly at dusk and dawn. The whole flock roosts together in thickets; and small young clamber and flutter up to roost with their parents, each under a wing.

- **NEST** A small platform made of twigs, placed in dense tree foliage at medium height.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Texas to Nicaragua.


MALE




DISTRIBUTION

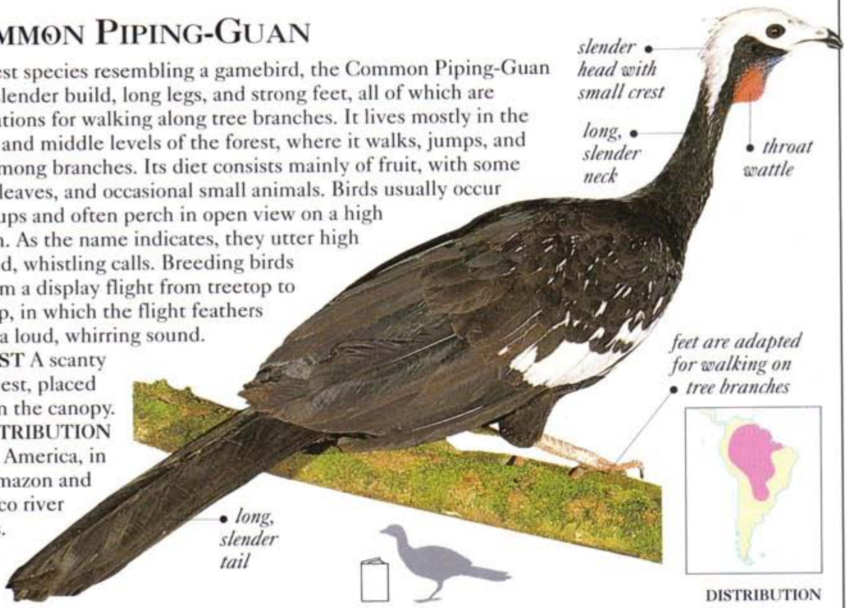
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

Family CRACIDAE	Species *Pipile pipile*	Length 27 in (68 cm)

COMMON PIPING-GUAN

A forest species resembling a gamebird, the Common Piping-Guan has a slender build, long legs, and strong feet, all of which are adaptations for walking along tree branches. It lives mostly in the upper and middle levels of the forest, where it walks, jumps, and flies among branches. Its diet consists mainly of fruit, with some buds, leaves, and occasional small animals. Birds usually occur in groups and often perch in open view on a high branch. As the name indicates, they utter high pitched, whistling calls. Breeding birds perform a display flight from treetop to treetop, in which the flight feathers make a loud, whirring sound.

- **NEST** A scanty twig nest, placed high in the canopy.
- **DISTRIBUTION** South America, in the Amazon and Orinoco river basins.


slender head with small crest
long, slender neck
throat wattle
feet are adapted for walking on tree branches
long, slender tail
DISTRIBUTION

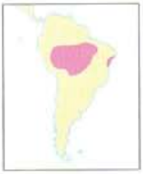
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

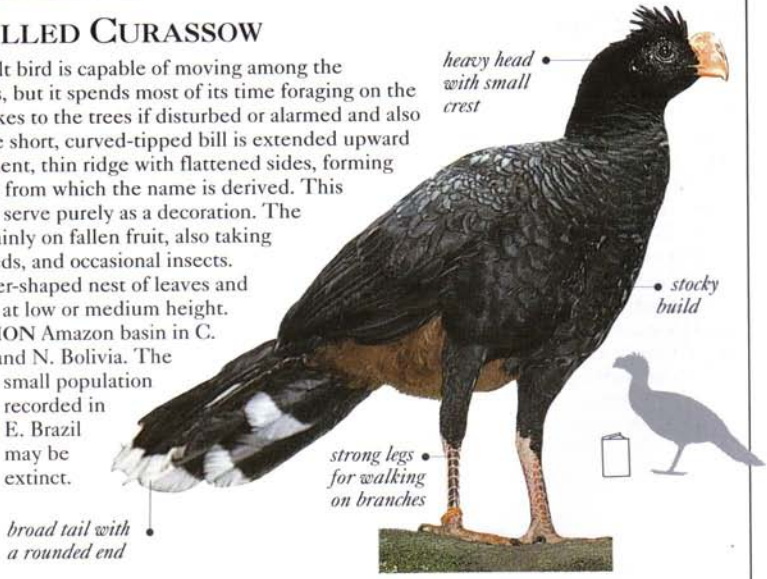
Family CRACIDAE	Species *Mitu mitu*	Length 35 in (90 cm)

RAZOR-BILLED CURASSOW

This stoutly built bird is capable of moving among the branches of trees, but it spends most of its time foraging on the forest floor. It takes to the trees if disturbed or alarmed and also roosts there. The short, curved-tipped bill is extended upward to form a prominent, thin ridge with flattened sides, forming the "razor" edge from which the name is derived. This feature seems to serve purely as a decoration. The species feeds mainly on fallen fruit, also taking buds, leaves, seeds, and occasional insects.

- **NEST** A saucer-shaped nest of leaves and stems, in foliage at low or medium height.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Amazon basin in C. Brazil, E. Peru, and N. Bolivia. The small population recorded in E. Brazil may be extinct.


DISTRIBUTION


heavy head with small crest
stocky build
strong legs for walking on branches
broad tail with a rounded end

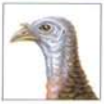
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family **PHASIANIDAE**	Species *Meleagris gallopavo*	L. 49 in (125 cm)/36 in (91 cm)

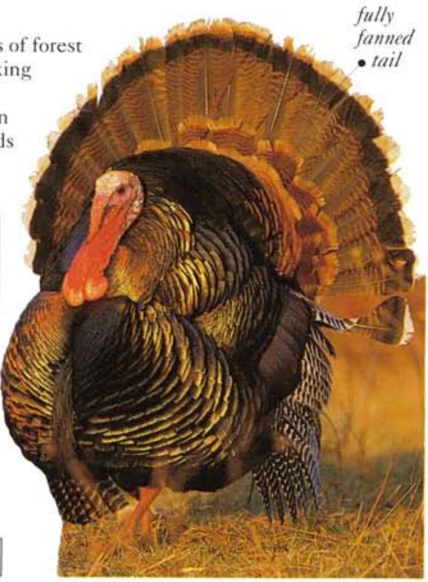
WILD TURKEY

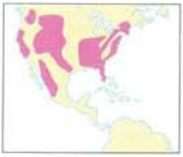
In the wild, turkeys are cautious and evasive birds of forest edges and clearings. They feed on the ground, taking berries, seeds, nuts, other parts of plants, and invertebrates. In winter, Wild Turkeys often live in flocks. Some flocks are segregated, containing birds of only one sex. In spring, the breeding male displays with his tail spread, attracting a small flock of females that nest individually after mating.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, sparsely lined with leaves and stems, often in vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Patchily distributed in S. Canada, much of USA, and N. Mexico.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

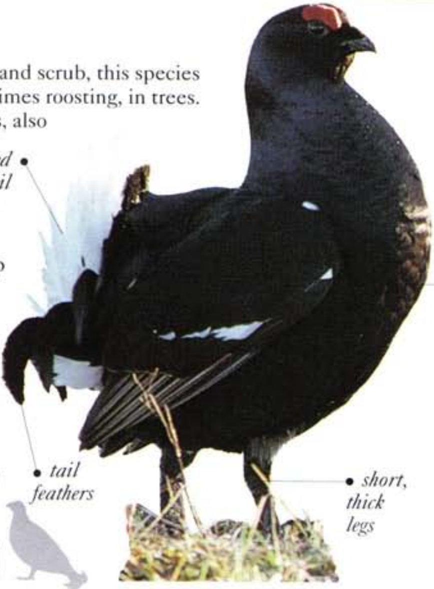
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

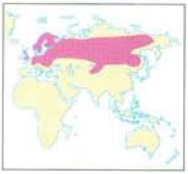
Family **PHASIANIDAE**	Species *Tetrao tetrix*	L. 22 in (55 cm)/17 in (43 cm)

BLACK GROUSE

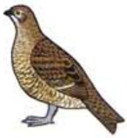
A gamebird of forest edges and scrub, this species is seen perching, and sometimes roosting, in trees. It feeds mainly on tree buds, also eating insects in summer. In spring, males display competitively on a piece of ground known as a "lek." They leap in the air with whirring wings and make excited, bubbling and sneezing calls. Females visit the lek, mate with a male, then nest alone.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, made by the birds and hidden among fairly tall vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia from British Isles to E. Siberia.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

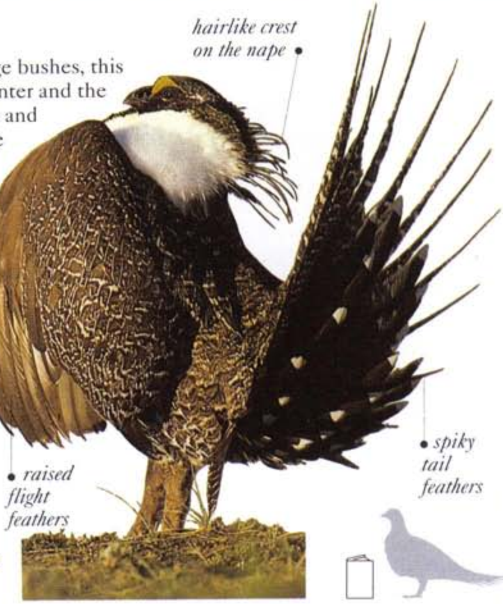
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

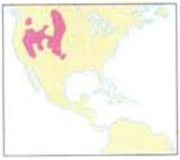
Family PHASIANIDAE | Species *Centrocercus urophasianus* | L. 31 in (80 cm)/22 in (55 cm)

SAGE GROUSE

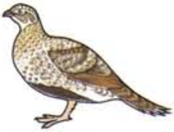
Dwelling in extensive scrub formed by sage bushes, this species alternates between the plains in winter and the foothills in summer. It feeds on sage leaves and insects. In spring, groups of males advertise themselves to the females over a distance, spreading out their tails in a spiky fan, swelling out their necks, and repeatedly inflating the air sacs on their breasts. They utter deep, bubbling noises. Females select a mate and subsequently nest alone.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, often situated under a sage bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of W. North America.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

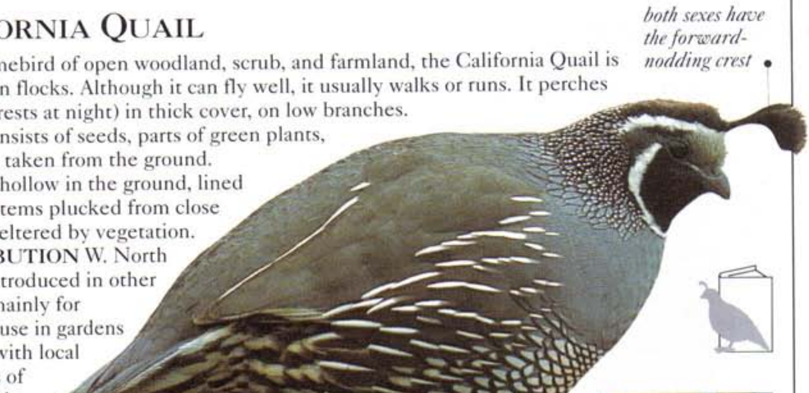
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

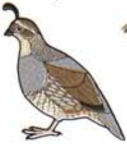
Family PHASIANIDAE | Species *Callipepla californica* | L. 11 in (28 cm)/10 in (25 cm)

CALIFORNIA QUAIL

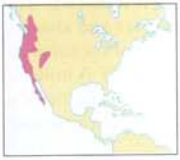
A small gamebird of open woodland, scrub, and farmland, the California Quail is often seen in flocks. Although it can fly well, it usually walks or runs. It perches and roosts (rests at night) in thick cover, on low branches. The diet consists of seeds, parts of green plants, and insects, taken from the ground.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with plant stems plucked from close by, often sheltered by vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. North America. Introduced in other countries, mainly for ornamental use in gardens and parks, with local populations of escaped birds.





FEMALE

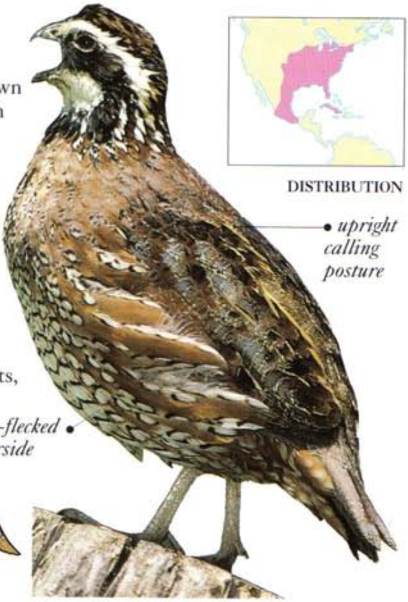


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Colinus virginianus*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

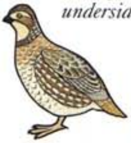
NORTHERN BOBWHITE



DISTRIBUTION

For most of the year, this small quail is fairly unobtrusive, but in spring it makes its presence known with its loud "bobwhite" call, given from a low perch such as a stone or a tree stump. It is common in thickets, in shrubby countryside, and in open woodland. In spring, the birds feed in pairs or family parties, gathering into small flocks later in the year. They are seen walking or running on the ground, often venturing into open fields. If disturbed, they first crouch among bushes, then fly low from one patch of cover to another on whirring wings. They roost huddled together on the ground, facing outward so that all can take off and scatter if alarmed. They feed on seeds, shoots, leaves, and roots, with some insects and other small invertebrates.

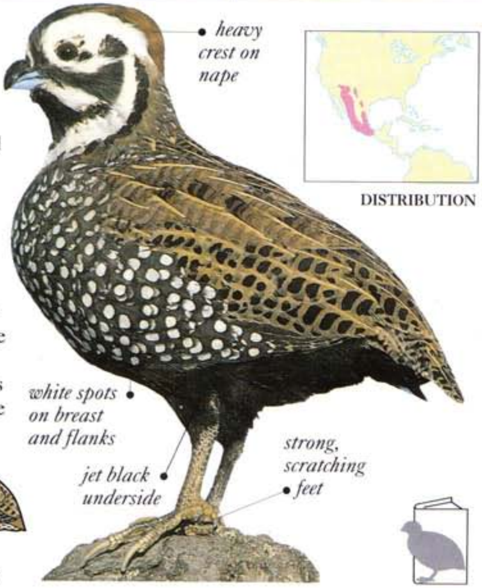
- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, lined with dead vegetation, often in a relatively open site, such as a meadow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. USA to Mexico. Introduced in other countries, with relatively small local populations of escaped birds.


FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌿 ◓	Migration Non-migrant

Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Cyrtonyx montezumae*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

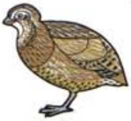
MONTEZUMA QUAIL



DISTRIBUTION

Characterized by a bolder head pattern than those of other quails, this is a bird of woodlands in drier mountain areas. It is found in canyons where oaks are interspersed with grass and on hillsides with scattered conifers. Very much a ground dweller, it tends to crouch and hide among grasses when alarmed. Both male and female look big-headed because of the way in which the crest curves back to enlarge the nape. The male's sandy-colored crest may conceal the vivid black-and-white pattern on the face when he crouches. The birds nest in pairs in the late summer and gather in small flocks after breeding. They feed on seeds and some insects and also scratch up the ground for tubers and bulbs.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with grass, and situated in grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.W. USA to S. Mexico.


FEMALE

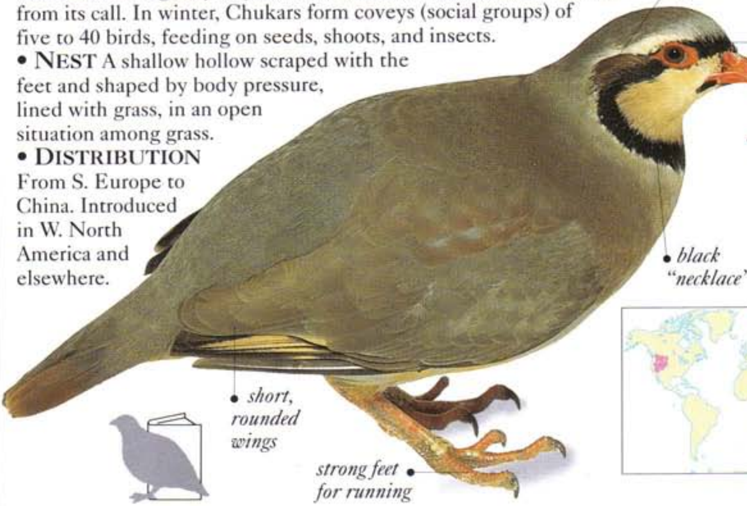
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌿 🌾 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

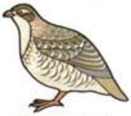
Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Alectoris chukar*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

CHUKAR

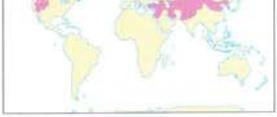
Camouflaged by soft colors, this shy partridge inhabits barren mountainsides, grassy slopes, and arid valleys. The name is derived from its call. In winter, Chukars form coveys (social groups) of five to 40 birds, feeding on seeds, shoots, and insects.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, lined with grass, in an open situation among grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Europe to China. Introduced in W. North America and elsewhere.


chestnut ear patch
bare, scarlet patch around the eye
black "necklace"
short, rounded wings
strong feet for running



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

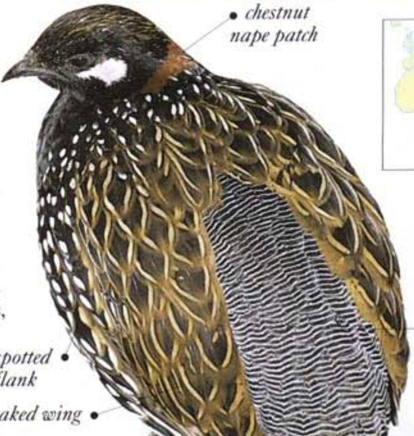
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

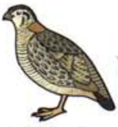
Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Francolinus francolinus*	L. 22 in (55 cm)/16½ in (42 cm)

BLACK FRANCOLIN

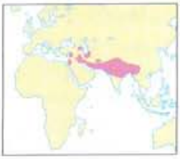
Noticeable for the male's rich mixture of black, brown, chestnut, and white, this bird can also be detected by the harsh, far-carrying call note of both sexes. The Black Francolin is a type of partridge that occurs both in lowlands and at altitudes of up to 5,250 ft (1,600 m) in the mountains. It is popular with hunters and shooters as a gamebird. Its diet consists of the seeds, shoots, and buds of plants, supplemented with insects, worms, and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with grass, beneath a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Eurasia, from Cyprus and Turkey east to Pakistan and N. India.
- **REMARK** Its past range extended west as far as Spain.


chestnut nape patch
spotted flank
streaked wing
finely barred back



FEMALE

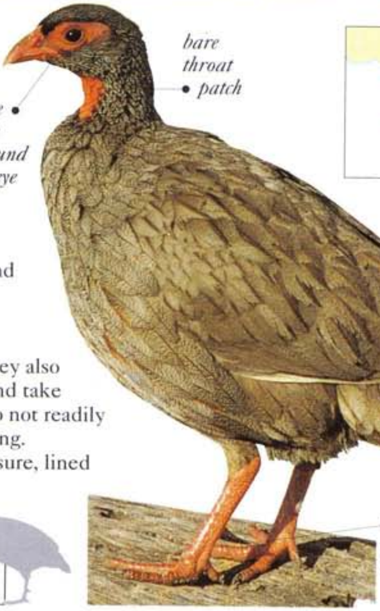


DISTRIBUTION

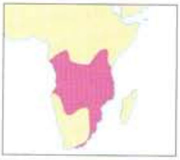
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Francolinus afer*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

RED-NECKED FRANCOLIN



bare skin around the eye
bare throat patch
strong feet for running and scratching



DISTRIBUTION

Identified by its red face and throat, this partridge lives in hot, dry countries. Throughout its wide range, it is a bird of the lowlands, living in scrub and open woodland, at the forest edge, and in wooded gorges. Red-necked Francolins live either in pairs or in family parties and will sometimes allow francolins of other species to feed alongside them in their territories. Their diet consists mainly of seeds, shoots, leaves, and berries, but they also scratch the ground for roots and bulbs and take insects and other invertebrates. They do not readily fly, preferring to escape danger by running.

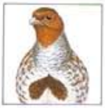
- **NEST** A hollow formed by body pressure, lined with grass and roots, and surrounded by thick vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa from Gabon and Kenya south to the coastal strip of South Africa.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

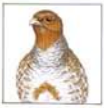
Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Perdix perdix*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

GRAY PARTRIDGE

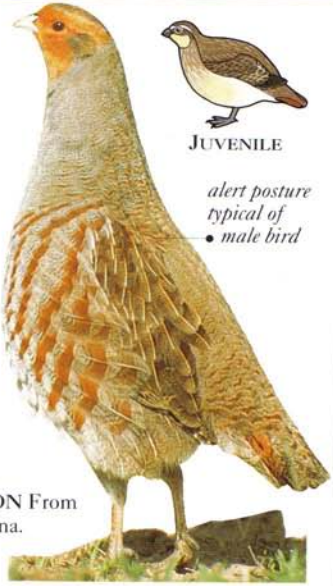
This is one of the commonest gamebirds within its range; its populations are artificially maintained for the benefit of hunters and shooters. Gray Partridges usually live in pairs in spring, forming coveys (social groups) of up to 20 birds in autumn. The birds feed on the ground in farmland, taking seeds, insects, and grains. When alarmed, they crouch in the grass, passing for a clod of earth or a piece of dry turf. If a bird is approached directly, it bursts out of hiding in a rapid escape flight, low over the ground at first, making a sharply audible whistling sound with its wings.

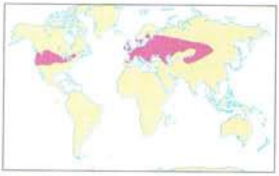


MALE



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A small hollow, often lined with dead plant materials, in an open situation in grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe to W. China. Introduced in North America.

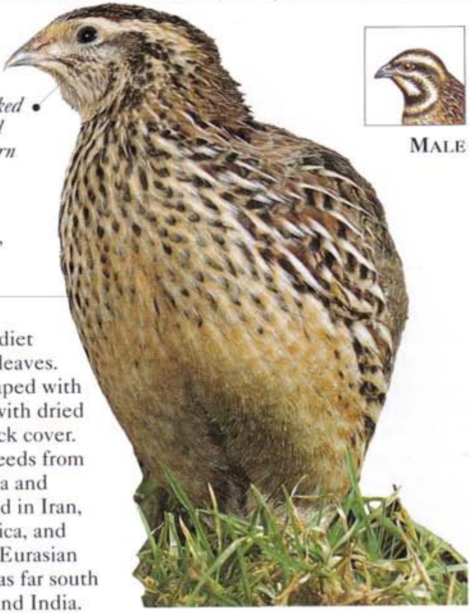
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Coturnix coturnix*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

COMMON QUAIL

This species is one of the smaller gamebirds of the world. Its distinctive call, consisting of three liquid notes, can be heard both day and night. It hides in dry grassland and among growing crops. If threatened, it prefers to escape danger by running rather than flying but will reluctantly make short, low flights. On its long-distance migratory journeys, however, it shows its ability to fly strongly. The Common Quail feeds on the ground, its diet consisting mainly of seeds, buds, shoots, and leaves.

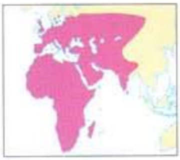
- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, lined with dried grass and situated in thick cover.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from Europe to east C. Siberia and Mongolia, and in Iran, N. India, Africa, and Madagascar. Eurasian birds winter as far south as C. Africa and India.



streaked facial pattern

"dead grass" camouflage pattern

MALE



DISTRIBUTION

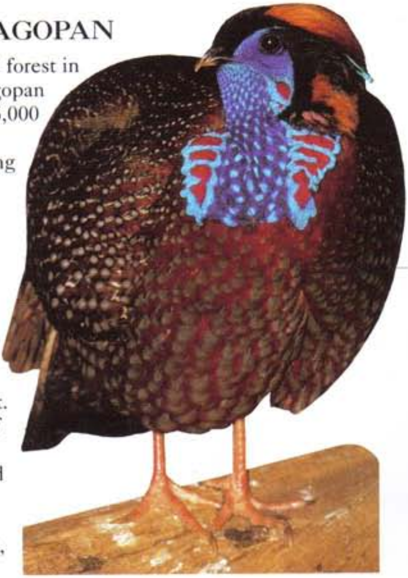
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

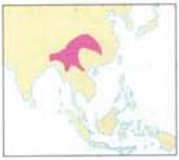
Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Tragopan temminckii*	Length 25 in (63 cm)

TEMMINCK'S TRAGOPAN

A bird of evergreen or mixed forest in mountains, Temminck's Tragopan occurs at altitudes of up to 15,000 ft (4,600 m) and is normally solitary. Like other birds living in unpopulated regions, it is tame in human company. Its diet consists of plant matter, such as buds, shoots, and seeds, supplemented with insects. This species is remarkable for the male's colored throat wattle, which is inflated in display, expanding to cover his breast.

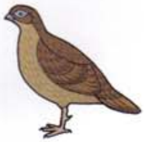
- **NEST** A platform made of twigs, gathered from the immediate surroundings, and placed in a bush or low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tibet, C. China, N.E. India, Burma, and N. Vietnam.





DISTRIBUTION

spotted plumage



FEMALE

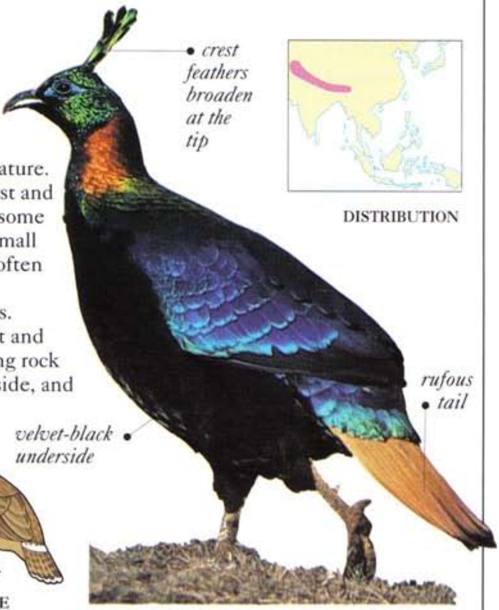
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family **PHASIANIDAE** | Species *Lophophorus impejanus* | L. 26 in (65 cm)/22 in (55 cm)

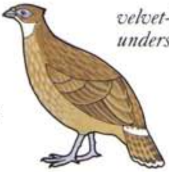
IMPEYAN MONAL

The magical, iridescent colors of this species seem poorly suited to its ungainly shape. It is a short-tailed pheasant with stout legs and a large, eaglelike bill. At a distance, the male's velvet-black breast is the most conspicuous feature. This is a mountain species, living in open forest and among stands of rhododendron at altitudes of some 8,000–16,000 ft (2,500–5,000 m). Singly or in small groups of three or four, the birds root around, often in snow-covered soil. They feed on grass and flower seeds, tubers, bulbs, berries, and insects.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow scraped by the feet and formed by body pressure, under an overhanging rock or a fallen tree trunk, generally on a steep hillside, and often hidden among the grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Himalayas in Afghanistan, N. Pakistan, N. India, and S. Tibet.
- **REMARK** The male's crest is always erect, while the female's tends more to lie flat.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

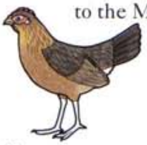
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family **PHASIANIDAE** | Species *Gallus gallus* | L. 22 in (55 cm)/17 in (43 cm)

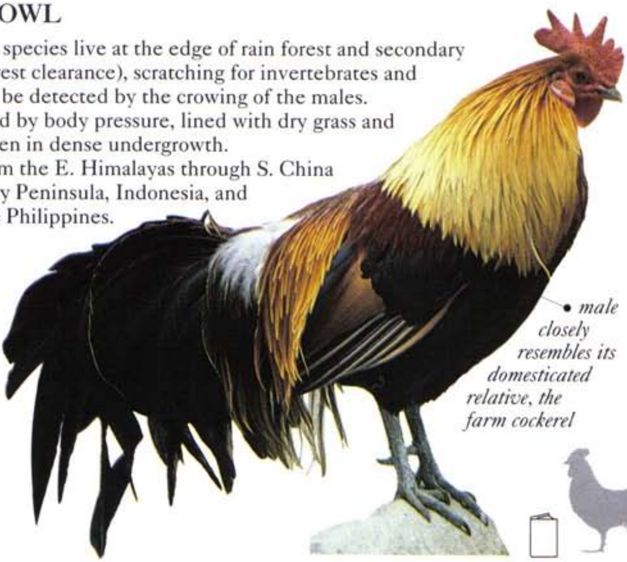
RED JUNGLEFOWL

Small, shy groups of this species live at the edge of rain forest and secondary growth (regrown after forest clearance), scratching for invertebrates and plant material. They can be detected by the crowing of the males.

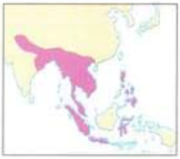
- **NEST** A hollow formed by body pressure, lined with dry grass and bamboo leaves, and hidden in dense undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From the E. Himalayas through S. China to the Malay Peninsula, Indonesia, and the Philippines.



FEMALE



male closely resembles its domesticated relative, the farm cockerel

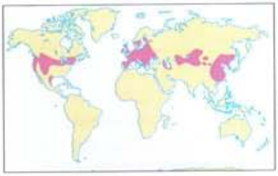


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Phasianus colchicus*	L. 33 in (83 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

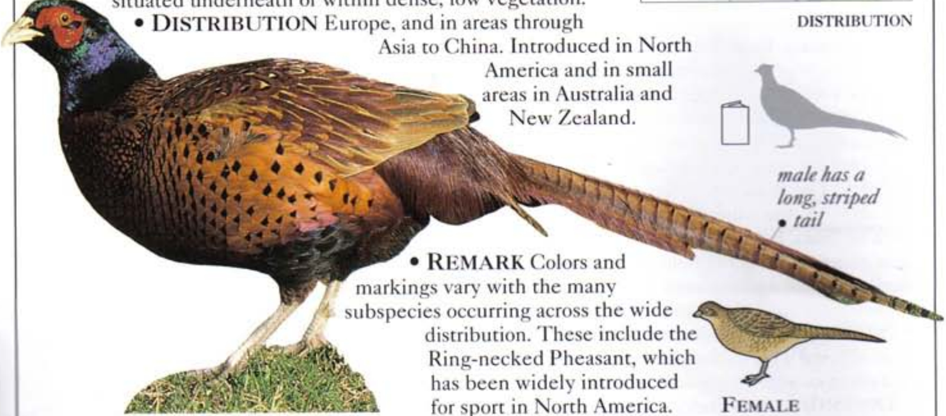
COMMON PHEASANT



DISTRIBUTION

Although large and colorful, this is a secretive bird, creeping softly through shrubby copses, farmland, and marshes. In pairs during the breeding season and otherwise in small flocks, birds feed on weed seeds, grain, berries, earthworms, and insects.

- **NEST** A hollow formed by the birds, lined with grass, and situated underneath or within dense, low vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, and in areas through Asia to China. Introduced in North America and in small areas in Australia and New Zealand.
- **REMARK** Colors and markings vary with the many subspecies occurring across the wide distribution. These include the Ring-necked Pheasant, which has been widely introduced for sport in North America.



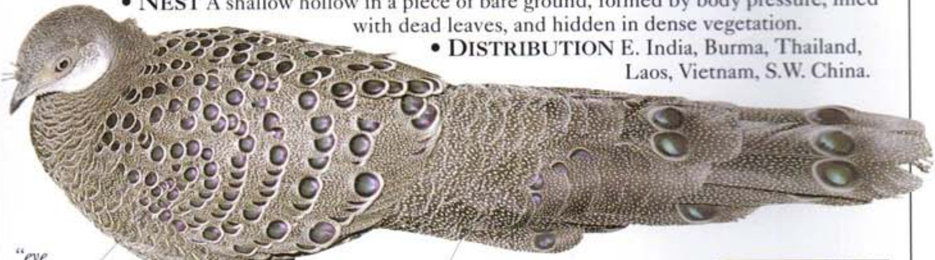
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲ ✶ ▬ 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

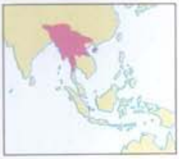
Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Polyplectron bicalcaratum*	L. 30 in (75 cm)/22 in (55 cm)

GRAY PEACOCK-PHEASANT

This large gamebird has "eye spots" (ocelli) on the wings and tail, the male's being violet and the female's black-and-white. A shy species, it occurs in humid, forested lowlands and mountains at up to 5,900 ft (1,800 m). It feeds by scratching the ground for plant matter and insects.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in a piece of bare ground, formed by body pressure, lined with dead leaves, and hidden in dense vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, S.W. China.


"eye spots"
in display, the male spreads out his tail and wings, to form a large fan
large feet for scratching the ground

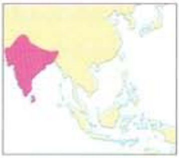


DISTRIBUTION

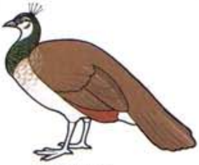
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

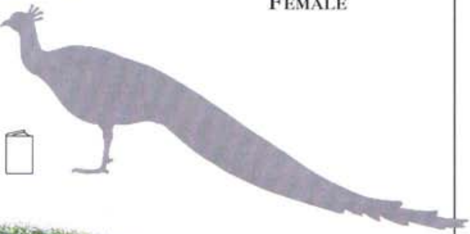
Family PHASIANIDAE	Species *Pavo cristatus*	L. 84 in (213 cm)/34 in (85 cm)

COMMON PEAFOWL

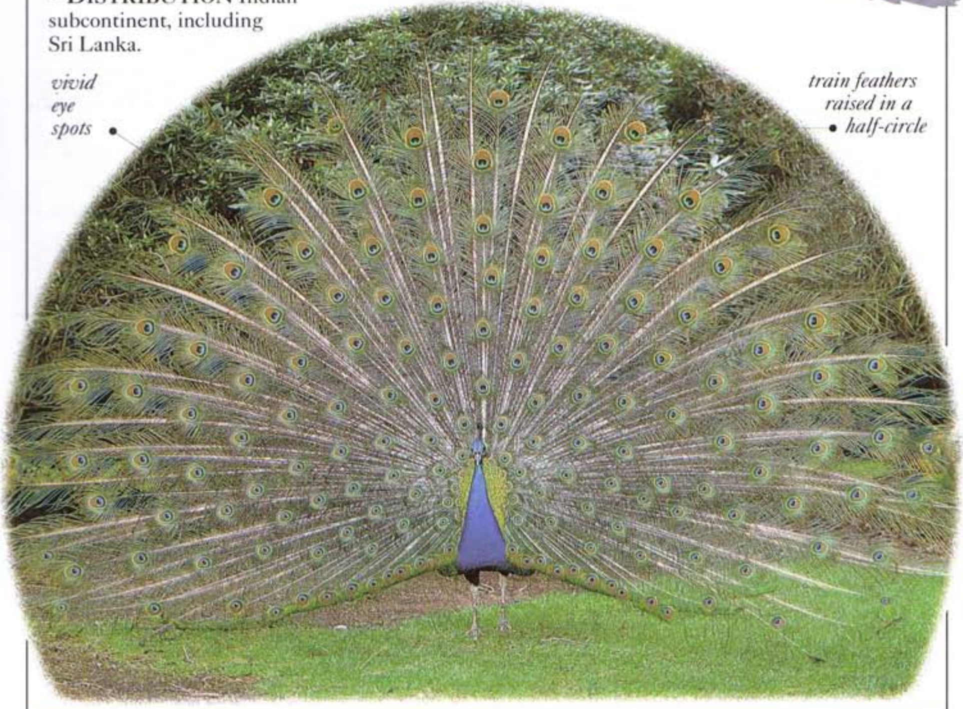

DISTRIBUTION

As a wild bird, the Common Peafowl (commonly known as the Peacock) lives in deciduous tropical forests and feeds in open places such as clearings or cultivated fields. Its diet consists of seeds, fruit, and other parts of plants, as well as small animals ranging from insects to mice. The male's long and colorful train is not the bird's tail but an ornament, composed of some 150 large feathers growing from his lower back. The real tail is short and dull-colored, hidden underneath the train. The female lacks a train, as does the male in winter. Both sexes, and even the tiny young, possess little, fan-shaped crests on the crown of the head. In display, the male raises up his train in a symmetrical fan by lifting his tail. At the same time, he lowers and shakes his chestnut-colored wings, which he reveals when strutting and turning in front of the female. He also utters a loud, far-carrying call. A displaying male will soon attract, and then guard, a small flock of females. The flock remains with him for a few days, during which time he mates with each of them. Each female then departs to nest alone, without the help of the male. Both sexes are agile enough to fly up into the higher branches of trees to roost.


FEMALE



- **NEST** A shallow hollow made by the birds, bare or lined with sticks, leaves, and grass, and often concealed in thorny undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Indian subcontinent, including Sri Lanka.



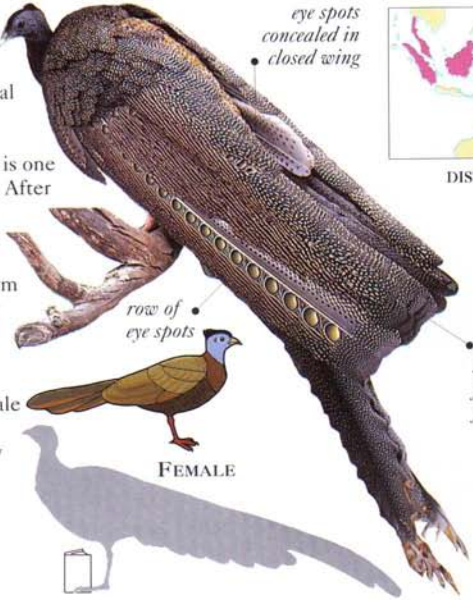
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

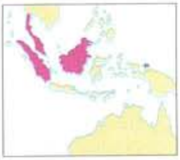
Family **PHASIANIDAE**	Species *Argusianus argus*	L. 73 in (185 cm)/ 28 in (70 cm)

GREAT ARGUS PHEASANT

A solitary-living pheasant of tropical rain forests, this species feeds on leaves, nuts, shoots, seeds, and invertebrates. Its courtship display is one of the most spectacular of all birds. After trampling clear a chosen area of the forest floor, the male begins to utter loud, ringing calls. He raises his tail and spreads his wings to form a vast fan, glittering with the many "eye spots" on the vastly enlarged secondary flight feathers. Most females thus courted will nest unaided after mating, while the male displays to other females in turn.

- **NEST** A hollow formed by body pressure on the rain forest floor, lined with leaves and situated under overhanging foliage.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.


eye spots concealed in closed wing
row of eye spots
huge secondary flight feathers
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

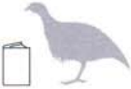
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

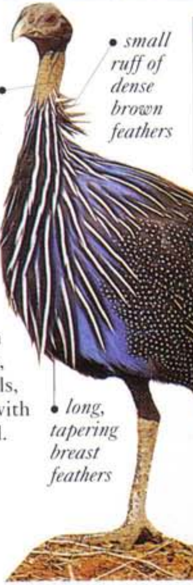
Family **PHASIANIDAE**	Species *Acryllium vulturinum*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

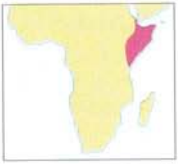
VULTURINE GUINEAFOWL

This bird can be recognized by its bare head and neck, resembling those of a vulture. The small ruff of feathers on the nape, and the tapering, blue feathers of the breast, are also identification features. It prefers the denser scrub and thickets of forest edge, which provide open space for it at ground level, while sheltering it from aerial predators. When alarmed, it prefers to run, although it can fly well and roosts in trees. When not breeding, birds move around in small parties that feed and roost together, maintaining contact by short, harsh calls. Larger groups are seen at waterholes. The birds breed in scattered pairs. The diet consists of seeds, shoots, leaves, tubers, bulbs, and fallen fruit, together with insects, snails, and other small invertebrates. Birds scratch the ground with their long, strong legs to find food items beneath the soil.

- **NEST** A hollow made by the birds, thinly lined with plant stems, hidden in low vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.E. Africa in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.
- **REMARK** This is the largest species of guineafowl.




bare skin on neck and head
small ruff of dense brown feathers
long, tapering breast feathers


DISTRIBUTION

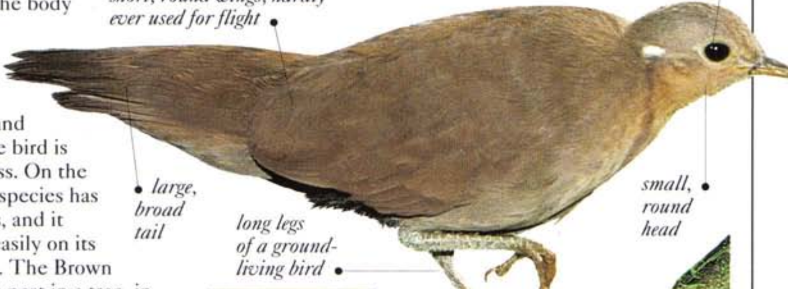
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

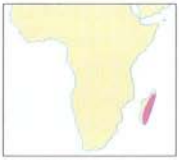
Family Mesitornithidae	Species *Mesitornis unicolor*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

Brown Mesite

This rare bird lives in tropical rain forest, where it feeds on the ground, taking seeds, fruit, and small insects. Superficially, it looks like a largish passerine with a small, rounded head and a pointed bill. The body is rather heavy and ends in a surprisingly broad tail. The wings are short and rounded, and the bird is virtually flightless. On the other hand, this species has strong, agile legs, and it walks and runs easily on its lightly built feet. The Brown Mesite builds its nest in a tree, in a position that can be reached by walking up and down a sloping trunk or across branches.

- **Nest** A thin, concave platform made of twigs, sparsely lined with grass or leaves, and placed in a tree.
- **Distribution** E. Madagascar.

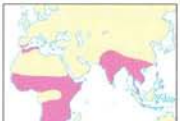

large eye for finding food in poor light
short, round wings, hardly ever used for flight
large, broad tail
long legs of a ground-living bird
small, round head
lightly built feet


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

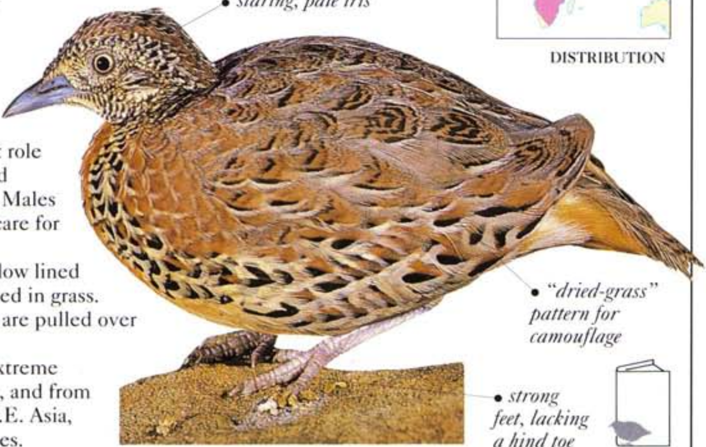
Family Turnicidae	Species *Turnix sylvatica*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

Small Button-Quail


DISTRIBUTION

A soft, booming call may be the only indication of the presence of this small and secretive species. A ground-dwelling bird of open woodland, scrub, and grassland, it resembles a quail in behavior and shape but has a more slender bill. Females are a little larger and more brightly colored than males; they take the dominant role in breeding, calling, and establishing territories. Males incubate the eggs and care for the downy young.

- **Nest** A shallow hollow lined with fine grasses, situated in grass. Grass stems and leaves are pulled over the nest to hide it.
- **Distribution** Extreme S. Spain, parts of Africa, and from Pakistan and India to S.E. Asia, including the Philippines.


staring, pale iris
"dried-grass" pattern for camouflage
strong feet, lacking a hind toe

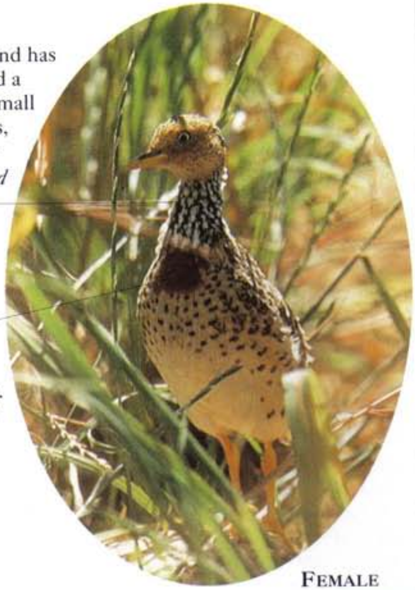
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat ✶ ▁ 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PEDIONOMIDAE	Species *Pedionomus torquatus*	Length 6¼ in (17 cm)

PLAINS WANDERER

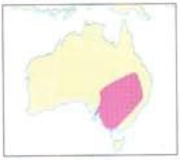
This small, ground-dwelling bird of dry, open grassland has a compact body, strong legs and feet, staring eyes, and a slender bill. In all these respects, it is similar to the Small Button-Quail. However, it prefers more open habitats, moving cautiously and only occasionally standing on tiptoe to peer over the grass. It may be seen in fluttering, dipping flight, or perching on a fence post or mound. The diet consists of seeds and insects. The female is more brightly colored than the male and is the dominant partner. She may mate with several males, which act as the main carers for the eggs and young.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, lined with grass, and situated alongside a tussock or small shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of S.E. Australia.

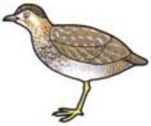


patterned neck
brown breast patch

FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION



MALE

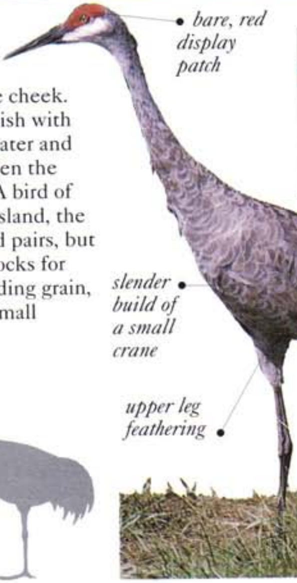
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Nomadic

Family GRUIDAE	Species *Grus canadensis*	Length 41 in (105 cm)

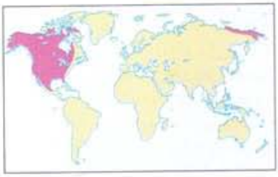
SANDHILL CRANE

This small crane is mostly gray, apart from its red crown and white cheek. Some individuals are stained reddish with iron salts that are present in the water and are transferred to the plumage when the bird preens itself with a wet bill. A bird of open, marshy landscapes and grassland, the Sandhill Crane breeds in scattered pairs, but gathers in large and often noisy flocks for migration. It feeds on seeds including grain, and on buds, shoots, leaves, and small animals from insects to mice.

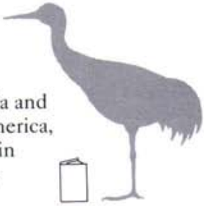
- **NEST** A heap of plant material, large if on a wet site, with a central hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N.E. Siberia and much of N. North America, also Florida. Winters in North America, as far south as Mexico.



bare, red display patch
slender build of a small crane
upper leg feathering
drooping feathers from the lower back (can be raised in display)
long stride of a grassland bird



DISTRIBUTION



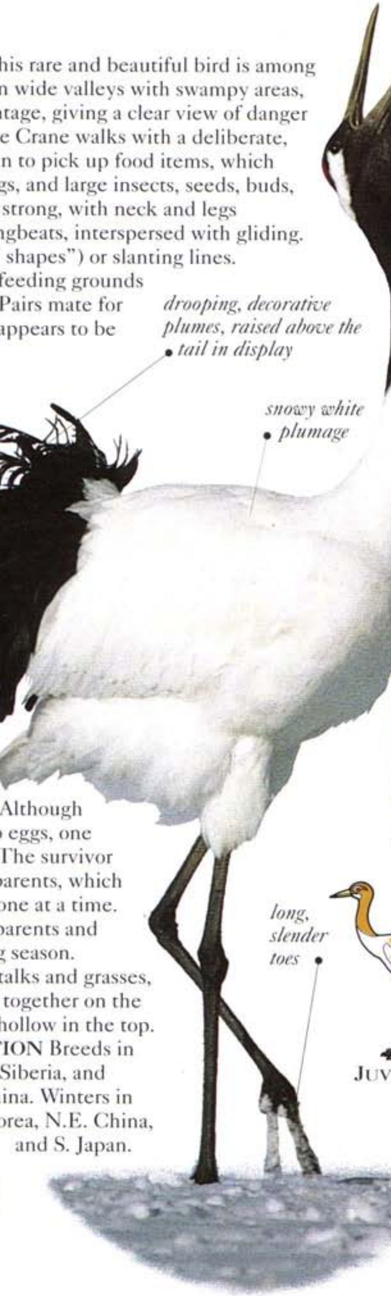
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family GRUIDAE	Species *Grus japonensis*	Length 55 in (140 cm)

JAPANESE CRANE

Of all the world's crane species, this rare and beautiful bird is among the tallest. It occurs in grassland in wide valleys with swampy areas, where its height is a natural advantage, giving a clear view of danger from a safe distance. The Japanese Crane walks with a deliberate, striding gait, pausing now and then to pick up food items, which may be relatively small. Mice, frogs, and large insects, seeds, buds, and leaves, form its diet. Flight is strong, with neck and legs extended, and with deliberate wingbeats, interspersed with gliding. Flocks usually fly in chevrons ("V shapes") or slanting lines. Migration to and from the winter feeding grounds tends to follow traditional routes. Pairs mate for life, and the bond between them appears to be strengthened by mutual displays. Displaying birds stand side by side with raised heads, uttering loud, trumpet-like calls. They then begin to perform a wild dance, very different from their usual, placid behavior. Dancing birds wave their heads up and down, raise and flap their wings, and make clumsy-looking leaps into the air. They sometimes pick up sticks or pull up tufts of grass and throw these into the air. Although each nesting pair normally has two eggs, one chick usually dies at an early age. The survivor is often seen walking behind the parents, which feed it with small insects, offered one at a time. The young bird migrates with its parents and stays with them until the following season.

- **NEST** A large mound of plant stalks and grasses, gathered at the nest site and piled together on the ground, with a hollow in the top.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Japan, E. Siberia, and N. China. Winters in Korea, N.E. China, and S. Japan.



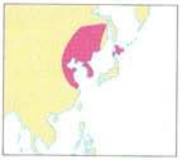
head raised in mutual trumpeting posture

drooping, decorative plumes, raised above the tail in display

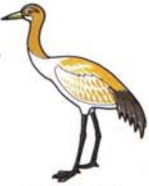
snowy white plumage

wings partly raised from the body

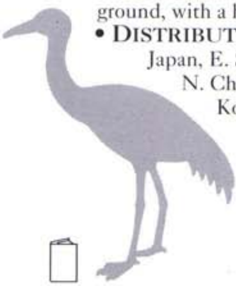
long, slender toes



DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE



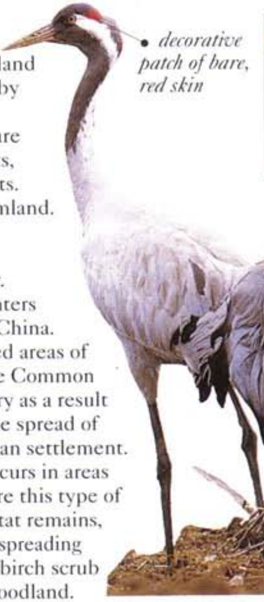
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family GRUIDAE	Species *Grus grus*	Length 44 in (112 cm)

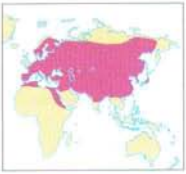
COMMON CRANE

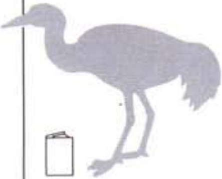
For the most part a plain-looking crane of grassland and marshes, this bird's presence is given away by its bright head color and far-carrying calls. The calls are used as part of the pairing display and are also uttered in flight. The diet consists of insects, frogs, mice, seeds, and other parts of green plants. In winter, cranes visit drier habitats, such as farmland.

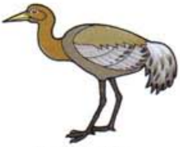
- **NEST** A mound of reeds, grass, and other vegetation, with a shallow hollow on top, often in a marsh and located near, or in, shallow water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across Eurasia. Winters in S. Eurasia, N.W. and N.E. Africa, India, and China.
- **REMARK** Because it needs large, undisturbed areas of marshland, bogs, and grassland for breeding, the Common Crane has lost ground during the present century as a result of the spread of human settlement. It occurs in areas where this type of habitat remains, also spreading into birch scrub or woodland.



decorative patch of bare, red skin
plumes droop from lower back (can be raised in display)


DISTRIBUTION




JUVENILE

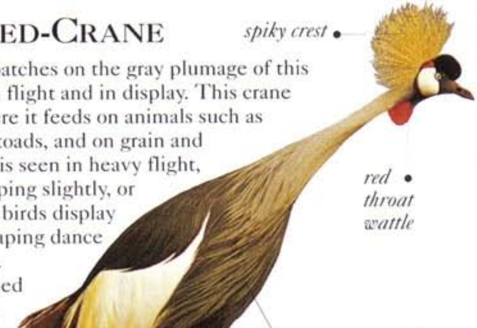
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

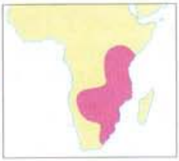
Family GRUIDAE	Species *Balearica regulorum*	Length 41 in (105 cm)

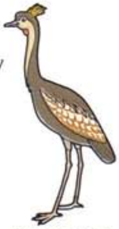
GRAY CROWNED-CRANE

The large, white wing patches on the gray plumage of this species are noticeable in flight and in display. This crane inhabits marshland, where it feeds on animals such as large insects, frogs, and toads, and on grain and other plant materials. It is seen in heavy flight, with neck and legs drooping slightly, or roosting in trees. Mated birds display to one another with a leaping dance and loud, two-note calls.

- **NEST** A large, flattened mound of reeds, rushes, and grass, screened by vegetation, in a marsh.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Uganda and Kenya to South Africa.
- **REMARK** A closely related species, the Black Crowned-Crane, is found along the southern edge of the Sahara and in Sudan.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

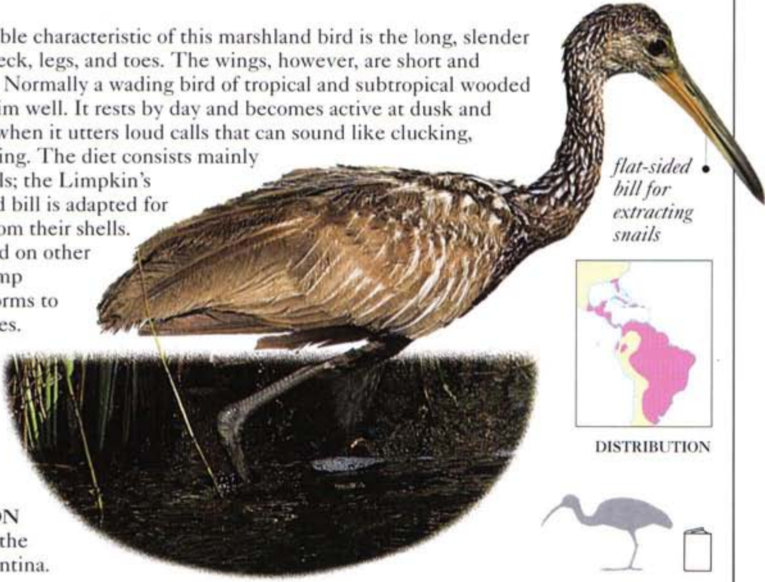
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ARAMIDAE	Species *Aramus guarauna*	Length 26 in (65 cm)

LIMPKIN

The most noticeable characteristic of this marshland bird is the long, slender shape of its bill, neck, legs, and toes. The wings, however, are short and rounded in shape. Normally a wading bird of tropical and subtropical wooded swamps, it can swim well. It rests by day and becomes active at dusk and during the night, when it utters loud calls that can sound like clucking, wailing, or screaming. The diet consists mainly of large water snails; the Limpkin's vertically flattened bill is adapted for extracting these from their shells. Limpkins also feed on other mollusks and swamp creatures, from worms to crayfish and reptiles.

- **NEST** A large structure of sticks and rushes, built on the ground or, in wet areas, in trees at low or medium height.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Florida and the Caribbean to Argentina.



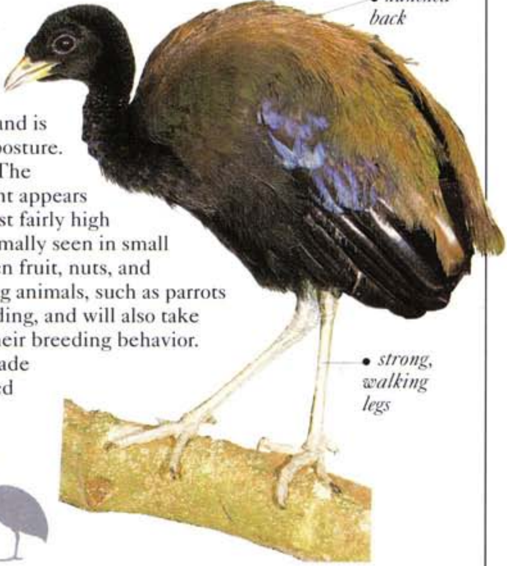
DISTRIBUTION

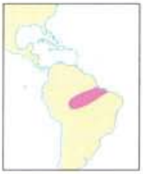
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSOPHIIDAE	Species *Psophia viridis*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

DARK-WINGED TRUMPETER

This bird gets its name from its loud, trumpeting threat call, uttered with outspread wings. In friendlier situations, it utters low, booming notes. It is chiefly a ground dweller and is normally seen walking, with a hump-backed posture. With its long, strong legs, it can also run fast. The wings are rounded and weak looking, and flight appears laborious. In spite of this, the birds always roost fairly high in trees. They feed on the ground and are normally seen in small social groups. The diet consists mainly of fallen fruit, nuts, and insects. Trumpeters rely on other tree-dwelling animals, such as parrots and monkeys, to knock these down while feeding, and will also take berries and some insects. Little is known of their breeding behavior.





DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A loose structure made of sticks and leaves and placed high in a tree, in a large tree hole, in an open cavity, or on a bare branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Middle and lower Amazon basin in C. Brazil.

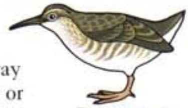
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family RALLIDAE	Species *Rallus aquaticus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

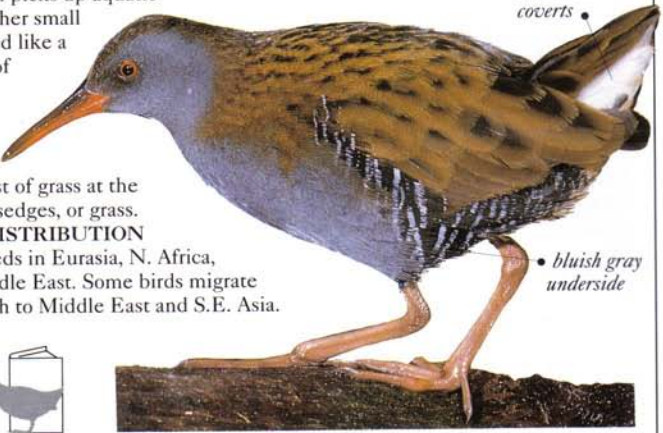
WATER RAIL

An extremely shy bird of swamps and fens, this species gives its presence away with loud, squealing calls. Once in the safety of its preferred surroundings, in or under growing vegetation, it ceases to be timid, but it is uneasy on open ground. Only at night, or in the evening, will it venture out into the open in search of food. The long, probing bill picks up aquatic insects, snails, frogs, and other small creatures; it can also be used like a pickax to break the skulls of small birds or mice. Water Rails run rapidly, with their heads lowered, and can swim well.

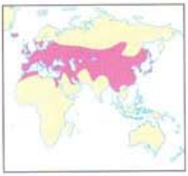
- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest of grass at the base of a tussock of reeds, sedges, or grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia, N. Africa, Middle East. Some birds migrate south to Middle East and S.E. Asia.



JUVENILE
white undertail coverts



bluish gray underside



DISTRIBUTION

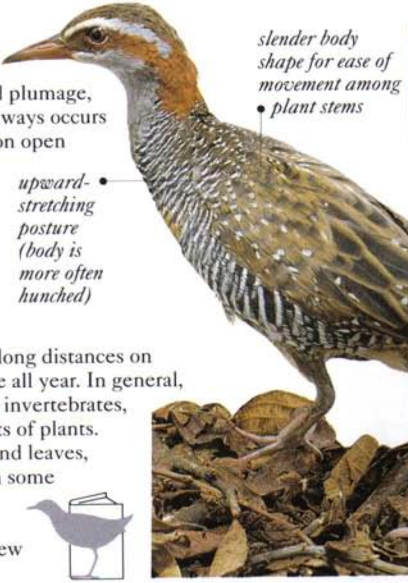
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family RALLIDAE	Species *Gallirallus philippensis*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

BUFF-BANDED RAIL

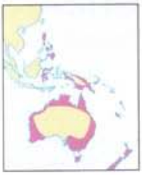
Camouflaged against leaves and undergrowth by its speckled, banded plumage, this is a common waterside bird. It always occurs in places where plant cover borders on open water, whether the sea, a freshwater lake, a marsh, or a pool in wet grassland. This is always a wary bird, although it becomes less timid during its active periods at dusk and by night. By day it tends to stay within thick vegetation. If forced to move, it flies off awkwardly with dangling legs. Some populations fly long distances on migration; others remain in one place all year. In general, the diet consists of insects and other invertebrates, small mollusks, seeds, and other parts of plants.

- **NEST** A hollow lined with grass and leaves, concealed in dense vegetation, often some distance from the waterside.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Philippines, Sulawesi, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, and the W. Pacific Islands.



slender body shape for ease of movement among plant stems

upward-stretching posture (body is more often hunched)



DISTRIBUTION

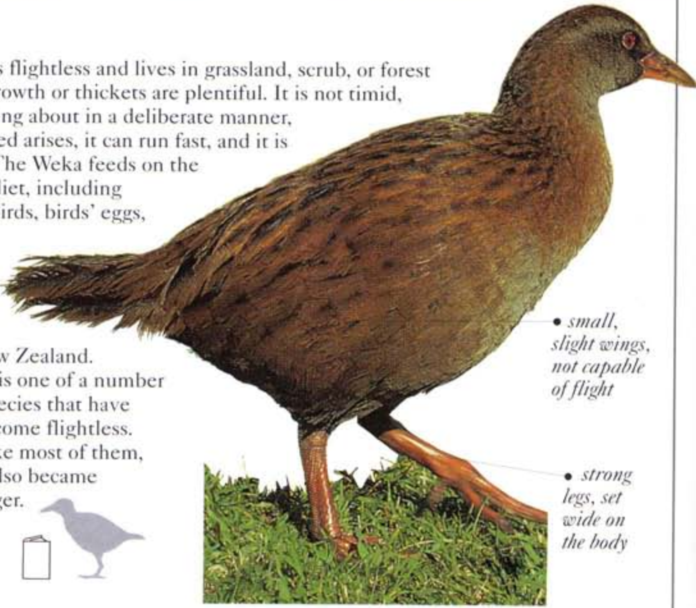
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family RALLIDAE	Species *Gallirallus australis*	Length 21 in (53 cm)

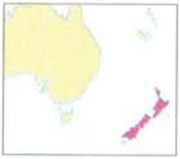
WEKA

This stout, strong bird is flightless and lives in grassland, scrub, or forest edges, wherever undergrowth or thickets are plentiful. It is not timid, and is usually seen walking about in a deliberate manner, flicking its tail. If the need arises, it can run fast, and it is a competent swimmer. The Weka feeds on the ground, taking a varied diet, including earthworms, rats, small birds, birds' eggs, seeds, and grass shoots.

- **NEST** A shallow cup of sedges and grasses, hidden among herbage or fallen branches.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand.
- **REMARK** The Weka is one of a number of island-dwelling rail species that have become flightless. Like most of them, it also became larger.


• small, slight wings, not capable of flight

• strong legs, set wide on the body


DISTRIBUTION

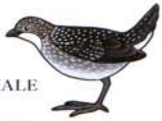
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

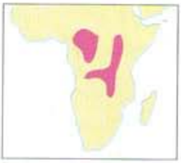
Family RALLIDAE	Species *Sarothrura lugens*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

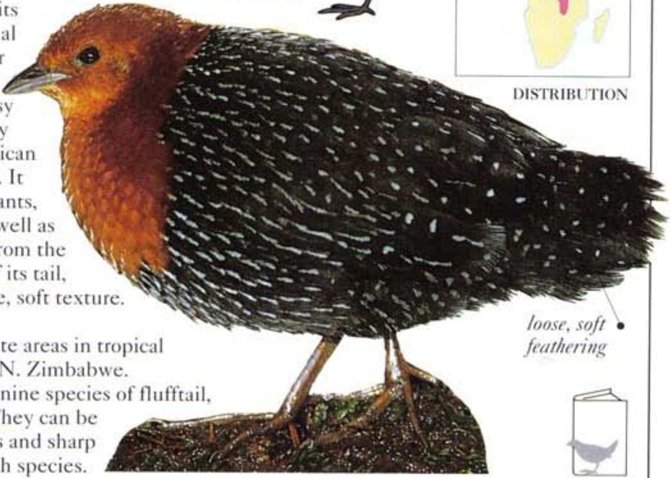
CHESTNUT-HEADED FLUFFTAIL

A difficult bird to see because of its habit of skulking deep in dense vegetation, this rail is usually identified by its distinctive calls. Its nocturnal life-style makes it still harder to observe. The Chestnut-headed Flufftail lives in grassy forest clearings and in grassy marshes, situated in the African savanna (tropical grassland). It feeds on insects, including ants, and other invertebrates, as well as seeds. Its name is derived from the finely structured feathers of its tail, which have a curiously loose, soft texture.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Separate areas in tropical Africa, from the Equator to N. Zimbabwe.
- **REMARK** This is one of nine species of flufftail, all of which live in Africa. They can be identified by their loose calls and sharp whistles, which differ in each species.


FEMALE

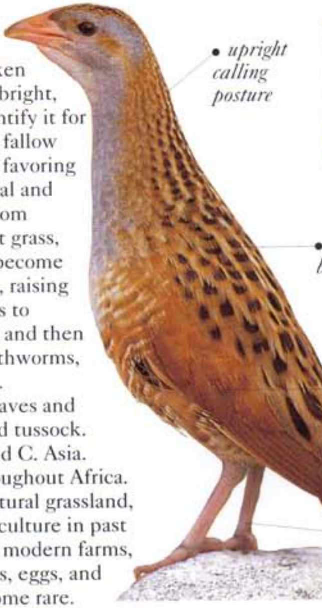

DISTRIBUTION

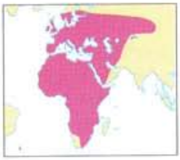

loose, soft feathering •

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family RALLIDAE	Species *Crex crex*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

CORNCRAKE





DISTRIBUTION

At first sight, this species might be mistaken for a gamebird such as a partridge, but its bright, chestnut wings, conspicuous in flight, identify it for certain. It is a spring migrant to grassland, fallow land, and fields of growing crops, strongly favoring regions in which farming is more traditional and hay is cut by hand. Males newly arrived from migration can be seen walking in the short grass, not yet high enough to hide them. They become still easier to see when they stand upright, raising their bills to utter rasping "crex-crex" calls to attract females. The birds soon form pairs and then nest in the fields. The diet consists of earthworms, insects, mollusks, frogs, seeds, and shoots.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest lined with leaves and grasses, concealed in grass or in an isolated tussock.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Europe and C. Asia. Winters in Mediterranean region and throughout Africa.
- **REMARK** Originally a bird of moist natural grassland, the Corncrake survived the spread of agriculture in past centuries by nesting in hay meadows. On modern farms, mechanized hay production destroys nests, eggs, and young of Corncrakes, so the bird has become rare.

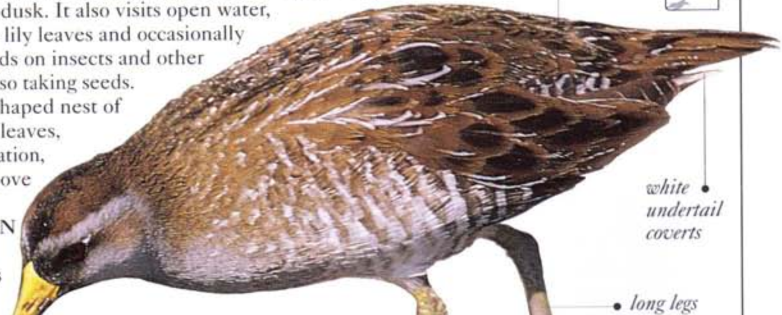
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

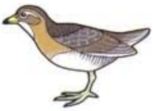
Family RALLIDAE	Species *Porzana carolina*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

SORA

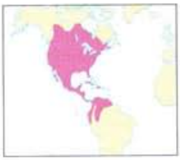
This secretive marsh bird usually hides among vegetation, but it may emerge at dusk. It also visits open water, walking on water lily leaves and occasionally swimming. It feeds on insects and other small creatures, also taking seeds.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest of dried rushes and leaves, in swampy vegetation, placed slightly above the water level.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America. Winters from S. USA south to N.W. South America.





JUVENILE

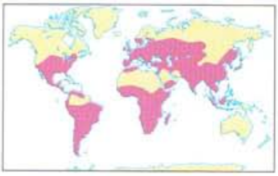


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family **RALLIDAE**	Species *Gallinula chloropus*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

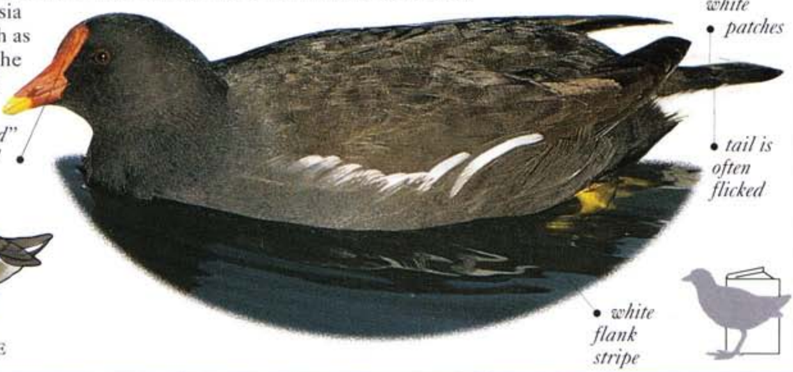
COMMON MOORHEN

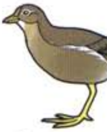


DISTRIBUTION

A cautious, sharp-voiced bird of the waterside, this species has managed to exploit most stretches of fresh water, however small, and is common and sometimes tame on village and town ponds. It walks on land and swims with nodding head, feeding on insects and small water creatures, waterweeds, seeds, and berries.

- **NEST** A neat, bowl-shaped nest made of reeds and stems, concealed in growing plants at or above water level.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of North and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia as far south as Java, and the W. Pacific.





JUVENILE

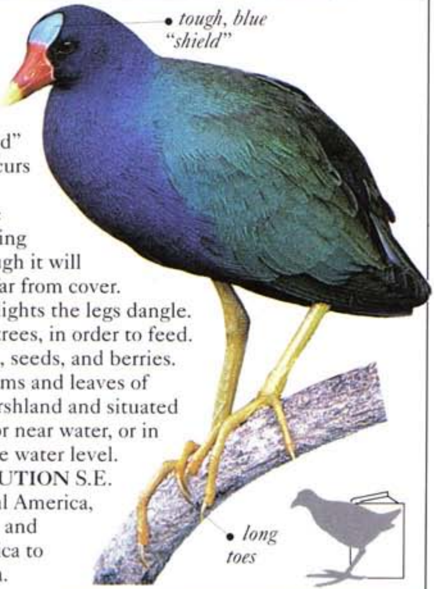
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ѱ≋	Migration Partial migrant

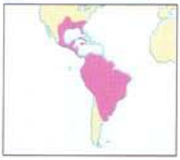
Family **RALLIDAE**	Species *Porphyrio martinica*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

PURPLE GALLINULE

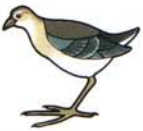
At first sight, this bird resembles the Common Moorhen, but it is more brightly colored and has a more slender build, with longer neck and legs. In adults, the legs are bright yellow and the hard "shield" over the bill is bright blue. The Purple Gallinule occurs on lakes, pools, waterways, and wet marshes, where vegetation is tall and abundant, in regions where the climate is warm. It wades and walks easily over floating plants and water lilies with its long-toed feet. Although it will venture onto open ground to feed, it does not stray far from cover. It walks with an upward jerking tail and on shorter flights the legs dangle. Birds often climb up reeds, rice plants, bushes, and trees, in order to feed. The diet consists of invertebrates, frogs, waterplants, seeds, and berries.

- **NEST** A bulky cup nest made of fresh or dead stems and leaves of rushes and cattails, built in marshland and situated in plants in or near water, or in bushes above water level.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. USA, Central America, West Indies, and South America to N. Argentina.





DISTRIBUTION

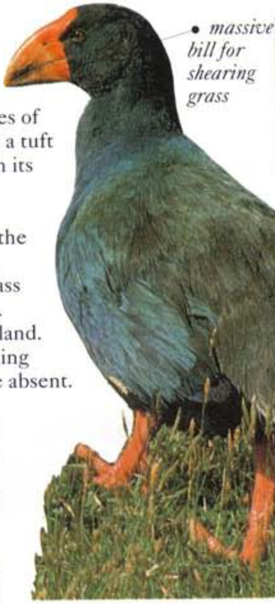


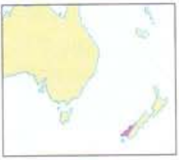
JUVENILE

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ѱ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family **RALLIDAE**	Species *Porphyrio mantelli*	Length 25 in (63 cm)

TAKAHE




DISTRIBUTION

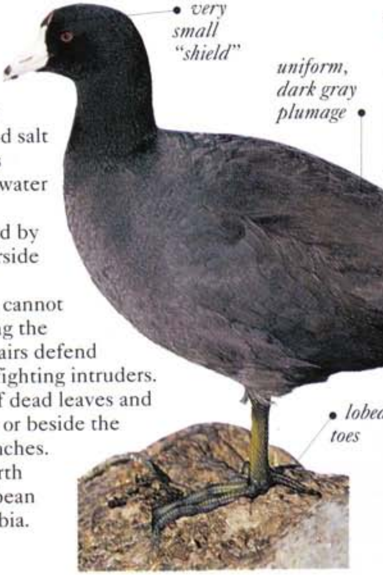
A heavy, flightless bird with a capacious bill and stout legs, the Takahe feeds on tussock grass. It consumes the seeds and the fleshy bases of the stems. To eat the stem bases, it holds down a tuft of grass with one foot and shears through it with its bill, removing the inedible upper stalks. The Takahe's small population lives in a few high-altitude valleys in mountains. In cold weather, the birds retreat into beech forests on lower slopes.

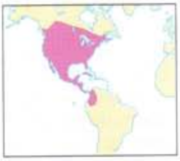
- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with grass and leaves, and hidden between grass tussocks.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand on South Island.
- **REMARK** This species evolved after becoming isolated in New Zealand, where predators were absent. It became flightless and, no longer needing to be light, grew large and heavy. Man brought in predators such as cats, and grazing competitors such as deer. The Takahe was thought to be extinct until a relict population was discovered in 1948. Conservationists are trying to save this by breeding birds in captivity and releasing them in safer areas.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲ ▁ ♣	Migration Non-migrant

Family **RALLIDAE**	Species *Fulica americana*	Length 15½ in (39 cm)

AMERICAN COOT




DISTRIBUTION

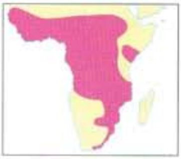
This is a bird of larger areas of open water. It is seen on lakes, large rivers, and flooded swamps; winter flocks sometimes settle on sheltered salt water areas such as estuaries. Coots feed on buds, leaves, and stems of water plants, as well as on seeds, insects, and other small creatures. They feed by foraging on the ground at the waterside or by diving in open water, taking waterweed from the bottom. They cannot take off easily and need to run along the surface to get airborne. Breeding pairs defend territories aggressively, both birds fighting intruders.

- **NEST** A bulky cup nest made of dead leaves and stems, placed among vegetation in or beside the water, or on low or submerged branches.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North and Central America, in the Caribbean region, and in the Andes of Colombia. North American populations winter as far south as Colombia.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

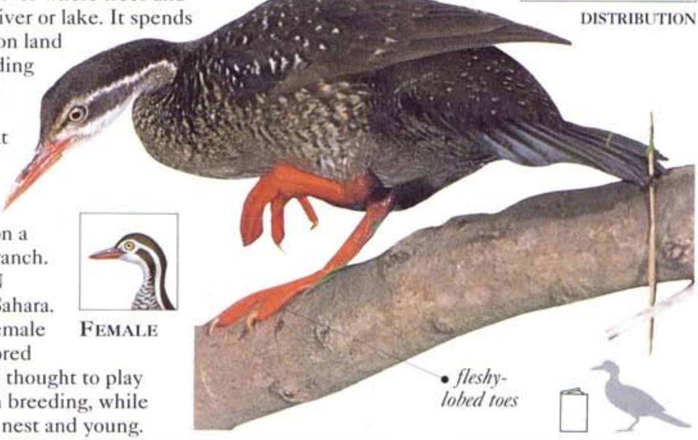
Family HELIORNITHIDAE	Species *Podica senegalensis*	L. 23 in (58 cm)/20 in (50 cm)

AFRICAN FINFOOT


DISTRIBUTION

With its streamlined body, the African Finfoot is able to swim well, either fully on the surface or with its body submerged and the neck and head out of the water. The feet, with their wide, fleshy lobes, make very effective "paddles." The bill is slender and streamlined. This secretive bird lives where trees and bushes overhang a river or lake. It spends as much of its time on land as on the water, feeding on insects and small aquatic life.

- **NEST** A large, flat nest of grass and stems, placed in dense vegetation at the waterside or on a partly submerged branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** The female is more brightly colored than the male and is thought to play the dominant role in breeding, while males look after the nest and young.



FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≈	Migration Non-migrant

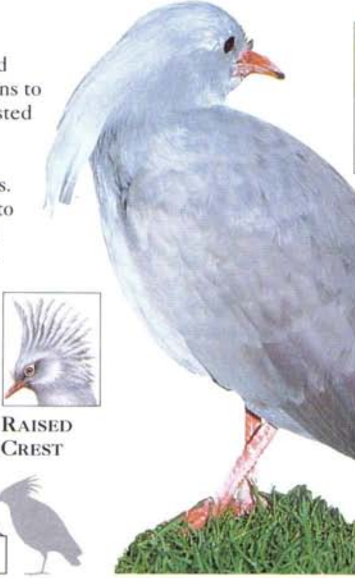
Family RHYNOCHETIDAE	Species *Rhynochetos jubatus*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

KAGU

DISTRIBUTION

The squat body shape, strong legs, and powerful bill of the Kagu are adaptations to a ground-dwelling life. It inhabits forested mountainsides with undergrowth and small streams. The Kagu is virtually flightless but can glide down hill slopes. It normally walks, tapping the ground to detect the earthworms and other small creatures on which it feeds. In display, it erects its shaggy crest into a tall, vertical fan and sometimes spreads its wings, showing the black, chestnut, and white barring on the flight feathers. It feeds in loose flocks, but breeding birds live in pairs. Kagus utter noisy, rattling calls, and pairs maintain contact with melodious notes, heard especially before dawn.

- **NEST** A loose structure of sticks and leaves, placed on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Caledonia in the S.W. Pacific.



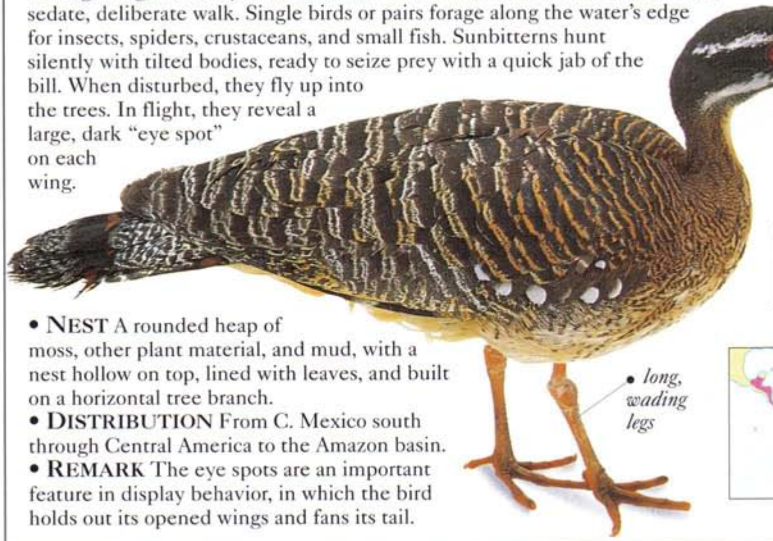
RAISED CREST

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲ 🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

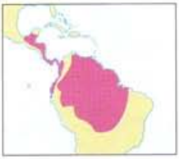
Family EURYPYGIDAE	Species *Eurypyga helias*	Length 19 in (48 cm)

SUNBITTERN

Living alongside shady forest streams, the Sunbittern is a slender bird with a sedate, deliberate walk. Single birds or pairs forage along the water's edge for insects, spiders, crustaceans, and small fish. Sunbitterns hunt silently with tilted bodies, ready to seize prey with a quick jab of the bill. When disturbed, they fly up into the trees. In flight, they reveal a large, dark "eye spot" on each wing.



- **NEST** A rounded heap of moss, other plant material, and mud, with a nest hollow on top, lined with leaves, and built on a horizontal tree branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From C. Mexico south through Central America to the Amazon basin.
- **REMARK** The eye spots are an important feature in display behavior, in which the bird holds out its opened wings and fans its tail.



DISTRIBUTION

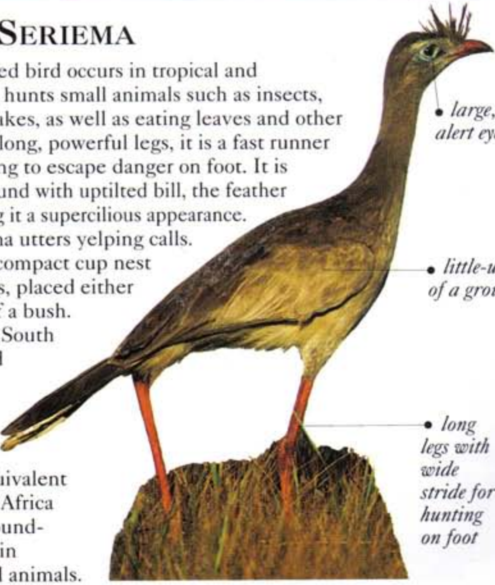
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

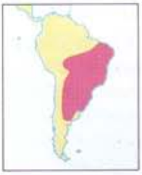
Family CARIAMIDAE	Species *Cariama cristata*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

RED-LEGGED SERIEMA

This slender, long-legged bird occurs in tropical and subtropical grassland. It hunts small animals such as insects, frogs, mice, rats, and snakes, as well as eating leaves and other parts of plants. With its long, powerful legs, it is a fast runner and rarely flies, preferring to escape danger on foot. It is usually seen walking around with uptilted bill, the feather tuft on its forehead giving it a supercilious appearance. The Red-legged Seriema utters yelping calls.

- **NEST** A well made, compact cup nest made of sticks and twigs, placed either in a tree or on the top of a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. South America from Brazil and Bolivia to Argentina.
- **REMARK** In its appearance and behavior, this is the South American equivalent of the Secretary Bird of Africa (*see p. 100*). Both are ground-dwelling birds that live in grassland, hunting small animals.


large, alert eye
little-used wings of a ground dweller
long legs with wide stride for hunting on foot



DISTRIBUTION

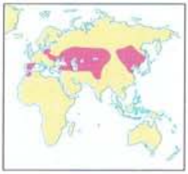
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family OTIDIDAE	Species *Otis tarda*	L. 39 in (100 cm)/31 in (80 cm)

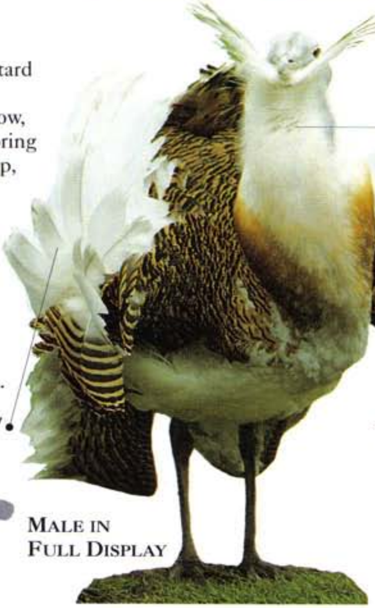
GREAT BUSTARD

The long neck and legs of the Great Bustard give it an unobstructed view in its open grassland habitat. Here it moves with a slow, deliberate walk, flying infrequently. In spring the males display to the females in a group, on a specially reserved display ground. Females then nest and raise the young unaided. The diet consists of plants, insects, and other small animals.

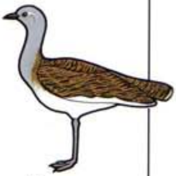
- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, often hidden in crops or high grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in parts of Spain, Morocco, E. Europe, and C. and E. Asia. Winters in the south of this range.



DISTRIBUTION



MALE IN FULL DISPLAY



FEMALE

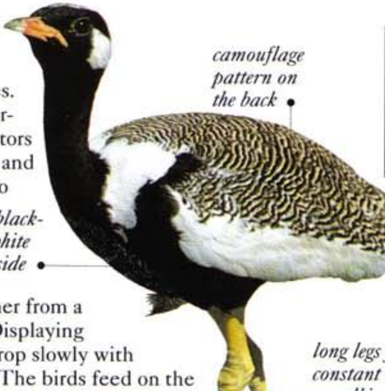
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

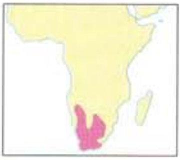
Family OTIDIDAE	Species *Eupodotis afra*	Length 21 in (53 cm)

BLACK BUSTARD

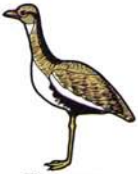
This is a sturdily built bird of grassland and other open landscapes. Both sexes have camouflaged upperparts to prevent detection by predators overhead. Males have a black neck and underside, which are conspicuous to other birds at ground level. Black Bustards live in pairs, each pair holding its own territory. The male utters a harsh, repetitive "cracker" call, either from a raised perch or in a display flight. Displaying males rise in flapping flight, then drop slowly with fluttering wings and dangling legs. The birds feed on the ground, pairs sometimes walking together with sedate steps and heads held high. They feed mainly on growing plants, also taking insects.

- **NEST** A slight hollow in the ground scraped by body pressure, among tufts of grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.


camouflage pattern on the back
bold, black-and-white underside
long legs for constant walking



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

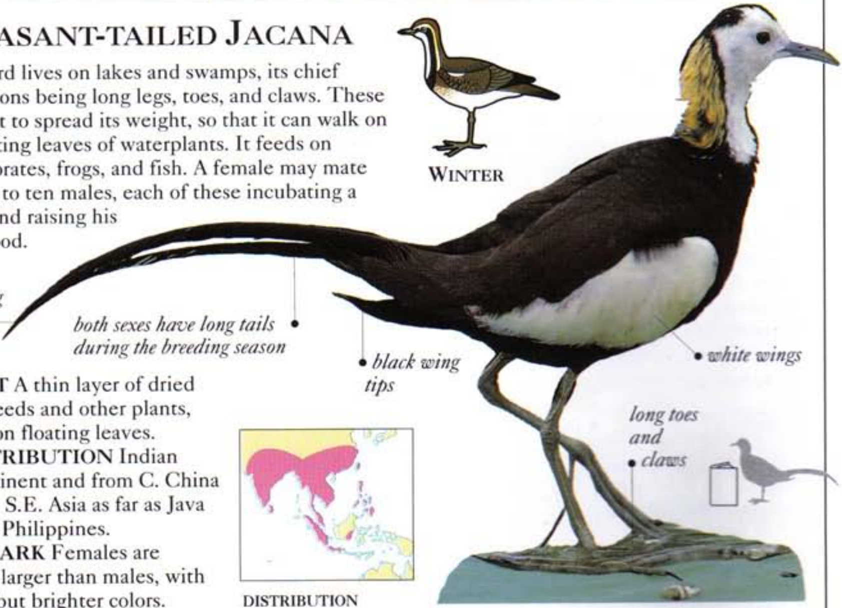
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family **JACANIDAE**	Species *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA

This bird lives on lakes and swamps, its chief adaptations being long legs, toes, and claws. These enable it to spread its weight, so that it can walk on the floating leaves of waterplants. It feeds on invertebrates, frogs, and fish. A female may mate with up to ten males, each of these incubating a clutch and raising his own brood.

WINTER



- **NEST** A thin layer of dried waterweeds and other plants, placed on floating leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Indian subcontinent and from C. China through S.E. Asia as far as Java and the Philippines.
- **REMARK** Females are slightly larger than males, with similar but brighter colors.

DISTRIBUTION

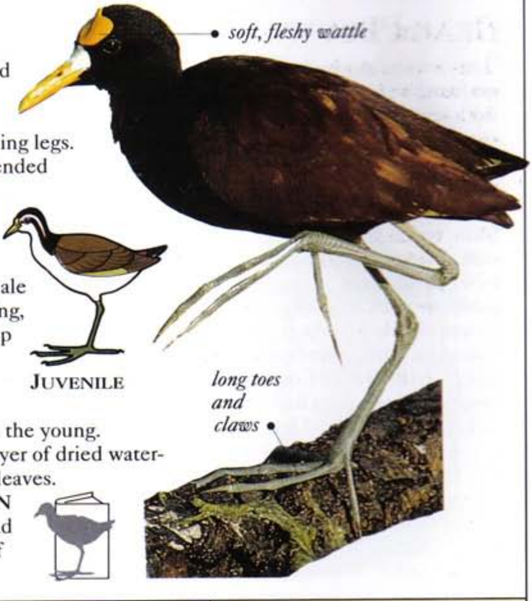
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family **JACANIDAE**	Species *Jacana spinosa*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

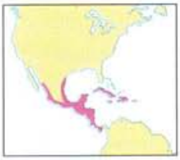
NORTHERN JACANA

Long legs, toes, and claws enable this bird to walk on floating waterplants. It can swim, but does so reluctantly, and will occasionally fly, usually slowly with dangling legs. In more sustained flight, the legs are extended backward, with the long toes projecting. Both sexes display to one another by raising their wings to reveal vivid yellow patches underneath. They also hold the wings up after landing. The female is bigger than the male and, when breeding, holds a large territory that encompasses up to four male territories. Each male has his own nest, in which he incubates a clutch of her eggs and rears and feeds the young.

JUVENILE



- **NEST** A loose layer of dried waterweeds, on floating leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Central America and the larger islands of the Caribbean.



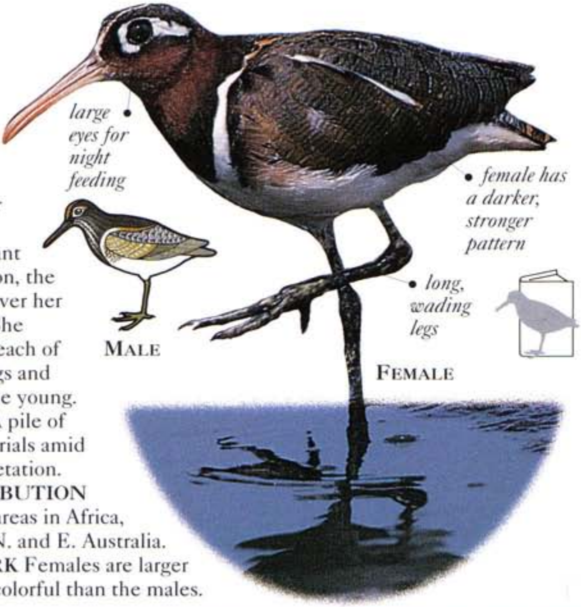
DISTRIBUTION

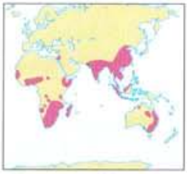
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family ROSTRATULIDAE	Species *Rostratula benghalensis*	L. 10 in (25 cm)/ 11 in (28 cm)

PAINTED SNIPE

A bird of shallow swamps, the Painted Snipe hides among low vegetation or reeds during the day, where it is inconspicuous despite its patterned plumage. Birds are active from dusk until dawn, probing the mud with their bills. They feed on earthworms, crustaceans, insects, and some plant seeds. Early in the breeding season, the female performs a display flight over her territory with soft, hooting calls. She may pair with several males, and each of these will incubate a clutch of eggs and also rear the young.


large eyes for night feeding
female has a darker, stronger pattern
long, wading legs
MALE
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A pile of plant materials amid marsh vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas in Africa, Asia, and N. and E. Australia.
- **REMARK** Females are larger and more colorful than the males.

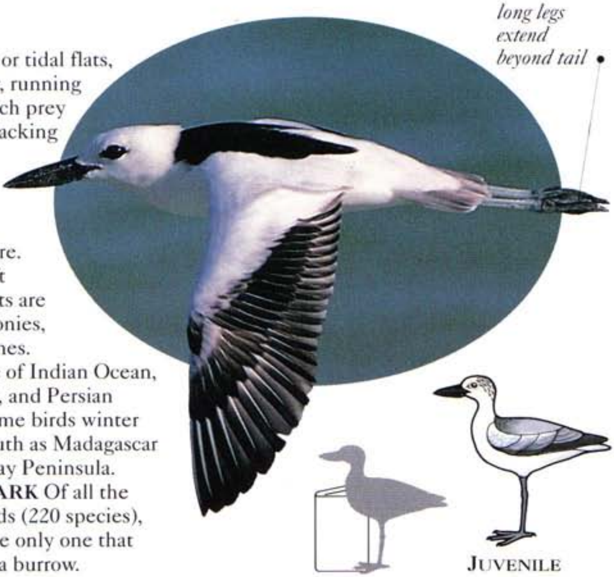
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

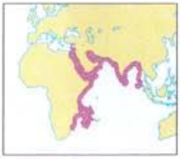
Family DROMADIDAE	Species *Dromas ardeola*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

CRAB PLOVER

Occurring on sandy seashores or tidal flats, this species feeds like a plover, running and making sudden jabs to catch prey on the ground. It eats crabs, cracking their shells with its powerful bill. Crab Plovers are seen in low, slow flight. They often feed in groups and roost in large flocks on the shore.

- **NEST** A burrow in sand, 6 ft (1.5 m) or more in length. Nests are packed closely together in colonies, located on sandy islands or dunes.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coastline of Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and Persian Gulf. Some birds winter as far south as Madagascar and Malay Peninsula.
- **REMARK** Of all the shorebirds (220 species), this is the only one that nests in a burrow.




DISTRIBUTION

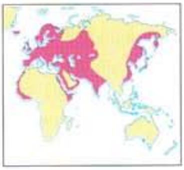
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family HAEMATOPODIDAE	Species *Haematopus ostralegus*	Length 17 in (43 cm)

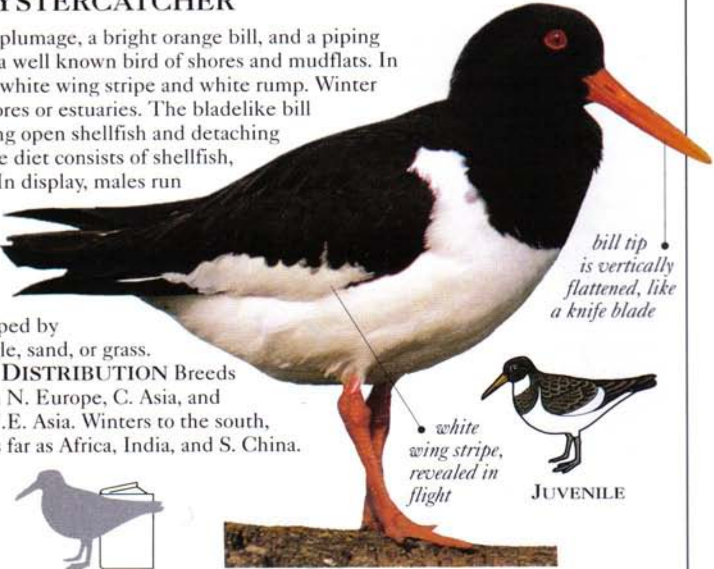
EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER

Bold, black-and-white plumage, a bright orange bill, and a piping "kleep" call make this a well known bird of shores and mudflats. In flight it reveals a large, white wing stripe and white rump. Winter flocks feed on open shores or estuaries. The bladelike bill tip is useful for smashing open shellfish and detaching limpets from rocks. The diet consists of shellfish, worms, and small fish. In display, males run side by side with lowered bills, trilling noisily, and also perform a flight with slowly flapping wings.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped by body pressure, in shingle, sand, or grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Europe, C. Asia, and N.E. Asia. Winters to the south, as far as Africa, India, and S. China.



DISTRIBUTION



bill tip is vertically flattened, like a knife blade

white wing stripe, revealed in flight

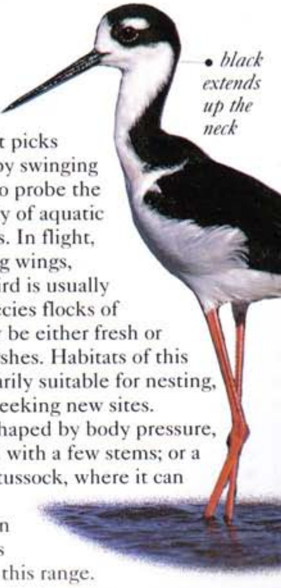
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≈ ≈	Migration Migrant

Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE	Species *Himantopus mexicanus*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

BLACK-NECKED STILT

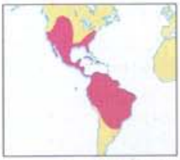
This distinctive shorebird has an elegant appearance with its very long legs, upright stance, and neatly proportioned bill. It is adapted for wading through the water, where it picks items of food from the surface or catches them by swinging its bill from side to side. The bill is also used to probe the mud in search of food. The diet consists mainly of aquatic insects, together with other small invertebrates. In flight, the Black-necked Stilt reveals its long, tapering wings, which are black both above and below. This bird is usually seen in groups and sometimes joins mixed-species flocks of shorebirds. Needing shallow water, which may be either fresh or salt, it occurs around water margins and in marshes. Habitats of this type dry up rapidly and are often only temporarily suitable for nesting, so birds sometimes travel about nomadically, seeking new sites.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, on an open, dry site or in low vegetation, lined with a few stems; or a substantial cup nest of stems and leaves, on a tussock, where it can be built up rapidly if the water level rises.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from the Canadian border through parts of the USA as far south as S. Brazil. Northern birds migrate south within this range.



black extends up the neck

tapering wings



DISTRIBUTION

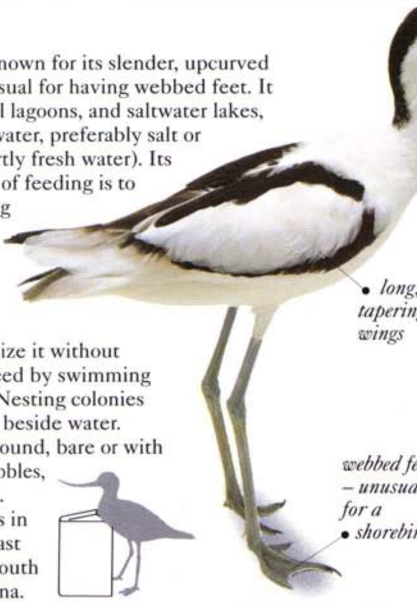
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≈ ≈ ≈	Migration Migrant/nomadic

Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE | Species *Recurvirostra avosetta* | Length 17 in (43 cm)

PIED AVOCET

A long-legged shorebird, known for its slender, upcurved bill, this species is also unusual for having webbed feet. It is found in estuaries, coastal lagoons, and saltwater lakes, feeding mainly in shallow water, preferably salt or brackish (partly salt and partly fresh water). Its most characteristic method of feeding is to stand in the water and swing its head and neck from side to side, sweeping its bill to and fro in the water, in search of small aquatic animals. Pied Avocets can also target their prey and seize it without sweeping and sometimes feed by swimming and up-ending like ducks. Nesting colonies are located on open ground beside water.

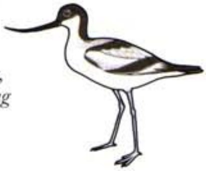
- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, bare or with a lining of stems, grass, or pebbles, collected from within reach.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia from British Isles east to Far East. Winters as far south as Africa, Pakistan, and China.



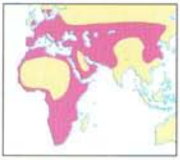
slender, upcurved bill

long, tapering wings

webbed feet – unusual for a shorebird



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

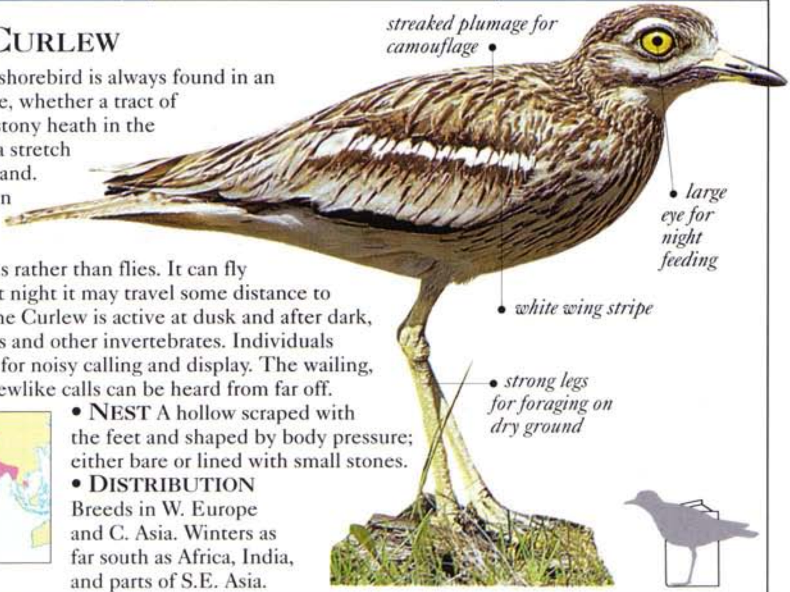
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family BURHINIDAE | Species *Burhinus oedicnemus* | Length 16 in (40 cm)

STONE CURLEW

This unusual shorebird is always found in an open landscape, whether a tract of semidesert, a stony heath in the subtropics, or a stretch of arable farmland. It lies hiding on the ground by day and, if alarmed, runs rather than flies. It can fly strongly, and at night it may travel some distance to feed. The Stone Curlew is active at dusk and after dark, hunting insects and other invertebrates. Individuals meet by night for noisy calling and display. The wailing, whistling, curlewlike calls can be heard from far off.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure; either bare or lined with small stones.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. Europe and C. Asia. Winters as far south as Africa, India, and parts of S.E. Asia.

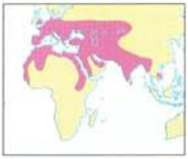


streaked plumage for camouflage

large eye for night feeding

white wing stripe

strong legs for foraging on dry ground

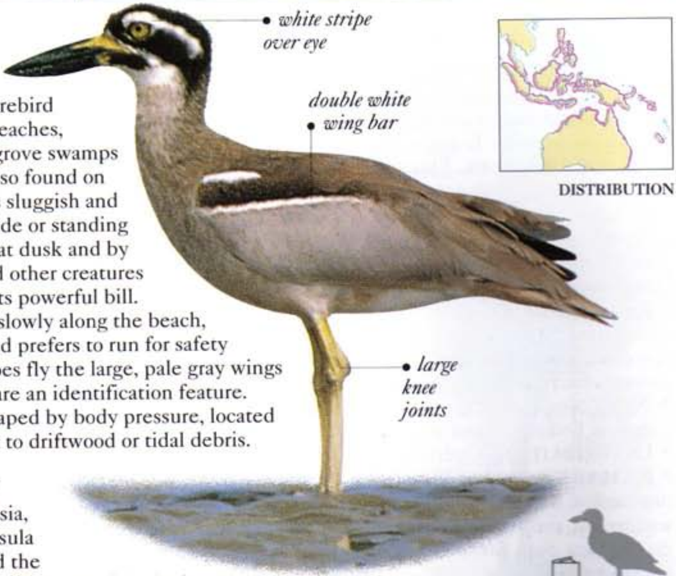


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family BURHINIDAE	Species *Esacus magnirostris*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

BEACH THICK-KNEE



DISTRIBUTION

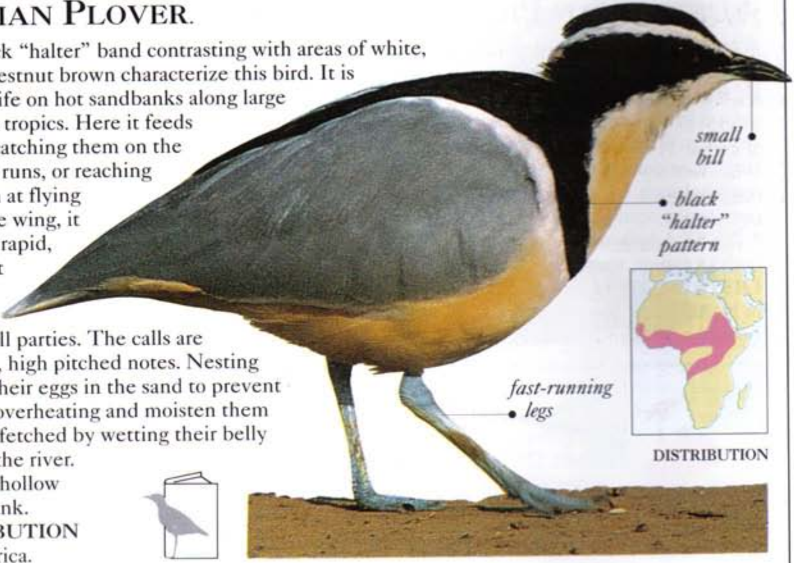
This heavily built shorebird occurs on flat, sandy beaches, especially where mangrove swamps lie close inland. It is also found on coral reefs. By day it is sluggish and inactive, resting in shade or standing in the waves. It feeds at dusk and by night, taking crabs and other creatures of the shoreline with its powerful bill. Usually seen stalking slowly along the beach, it is reluctant to fly, and prefers to run for safety if alarmed. When it does fly the large, pale gray wings with white wing bars are an identification feature.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped by body pressure, located on a beach, often next to driftwood or tidal debris.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coastlines of much of S.E. Asia and Australasia, from the Malay Peninsula through Indonesia and the Philippines to Australia and New Caledonia.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family GLAREOLIDAE	Species *Pluvianus aegyptius*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

EGYPTIAN PLOVER



DISTRIBUTION

A bold, black "halter" band contrasting with areas of white, gray, and chestnut brown characterize this bird. It is adapted to life on hot sandbanks along large rivers in the tropics. Here it feeds on insects, catching them on the ground as it runs, or reaching up to snatch at flying ones. On the wing, it moves with rapid, low flight. It usually occurs in pairs or small parties. The calls are short, harsh, high pitched notes. Nesting birds bury their eggs in the sand to prevent them from overheating and moisten them with water, fetched by wetting their belly feathers in the river.

- **NEST** A hollow in a sand bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical Africa.

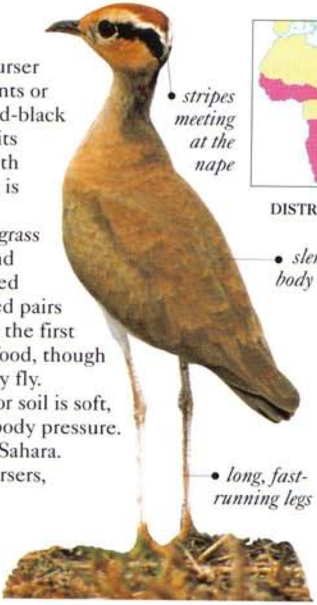
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Non-migrant

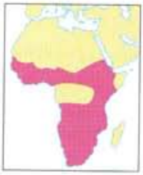
Family GLAREOLIDAE | Species *Cursorius temminckii* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

TEMMINCK'S COURSER

A slenderly built bird with long legs, Temminck's Courser inhabits dry, open country. Here it travels in rapid sprints or stands upright and on the alert, showing a chestnut-and-black pattern on the belly. In flight, it can be recognized by its quick, jerky wingbeats. This species favors habitats with plenty of bare ground, across which it can run easily. It is normally found in short grassland and scrub and has a preference for areas that have been burned in bush and grass fires. Temminck's Coursers feed by catching insects and other invertebrates on the ground with their thin, curved bills, sometimes also taking seeds. Breeding in scattered pairs on open stretches of ground, they feed the nestlings in the first few days. The young then begin to learn to find their food, though parents often continue partially feeding them until they fly.

- **NEST** Simply bare ground or, in places where sand or soil is soft, a shallow hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Open areas of Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** A number of shorebirds, including all coursers, pratincoles, thick-knees, oystercatchers, woodcocks, and snipes, feed their young for the first few days. Most other shorebirds do not feed their young – nestlings run and feed themselves within hours of hatching.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

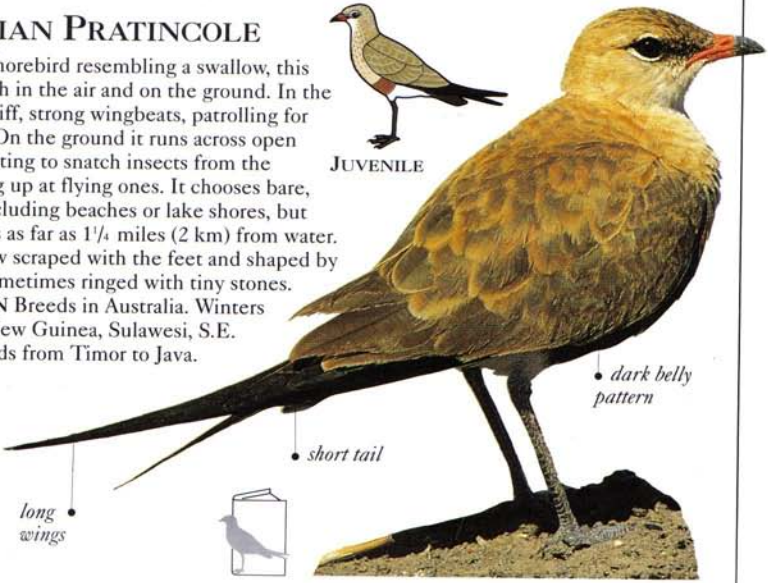
Family GLAREOLIDAE | Species *Stiltia isabella* | Length 9 in (23 cm)

AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE

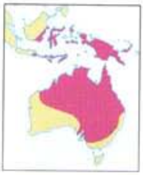
A long-winged shorebird resembling a swallow, this species feeds both in the air and on the ground. In the air, it flies with stiff, strong wingbeats, patrolling for insects in flight. On the ground it runs across open spaces to feed, tilting to snatch insects from the surface, or darting up at flying ones. It chooses bare, open habitats, including beaches or lake shores, but sometimes occurs as far as 1¼ miles (2 km) from water.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, sometimes ringed with tiny stones.

DISTRIBUTION Breeds in Australia. Winters in N. Australia, New Guinea, Sulawesi, S.E. Borneo, and islands from Timor to Java.



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

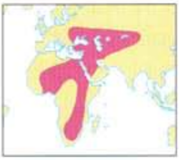
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

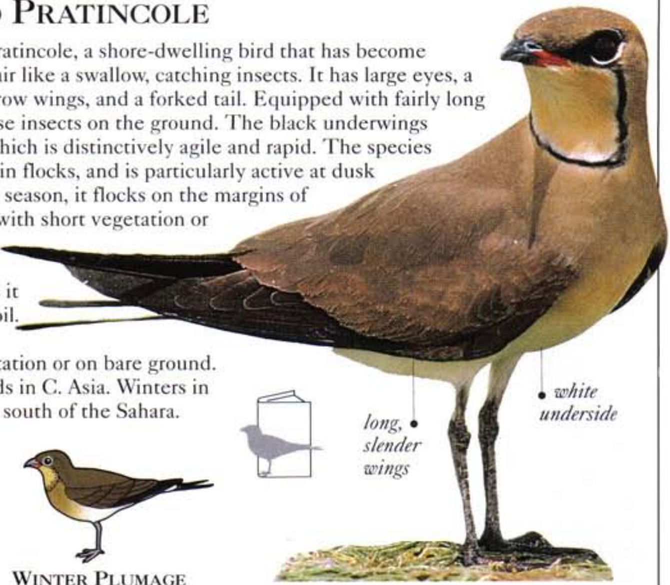
Family GLAREOLIDAE	Species *Glareola nordmanni*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE

This species is a typical pratincole, a shore-dwelling bird that has become adapted to feeding in the air like a swallow, catching insects. It has large eyes, a broad-based bill, long, narrow wings, and a forked tail. Equipped with fairly long legs, this bird will also chase insects on the ground. The black underwings become visible in flight, which is distinctively agile and rapid. The species is highly sociable, feeding in flocks, and is particularly active at dusk and dawn. In the breeding season, it flocks on the margins of steppe lakes and marshes with short vegetation or bare mud. It rests, and nests, on the ground, where its coloration makes it inconspicuous on mud or soil.

- **NEST** A shallow, bare depression, in sparse vegetation or on bare ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in C. Asia. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.


DISTRIBUTION



WINTER PLUMAGE

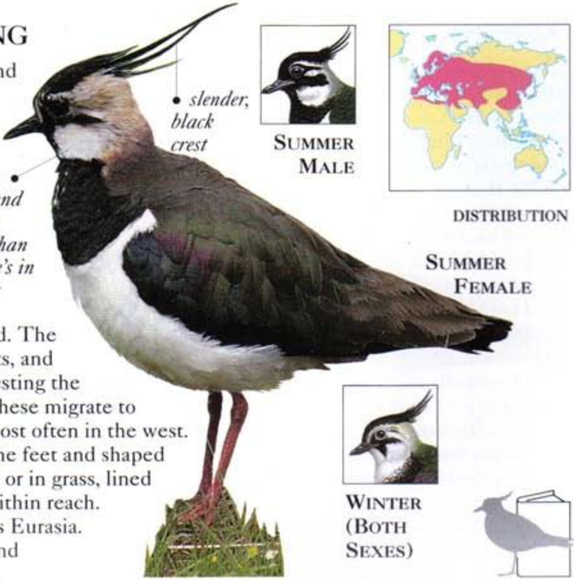
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family CHARADRIIDAE	Species *Vanellus vanellus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

NORTHERN LAPWING

A conspicuous bird of farmland and grazing marshes, the Lapwing is most noticeable in spring, when the male performs a tumbling display flight over the nest territory, uttering wild "peewit" calls. The species prefers to feed in short, grazed grass and hunts by sight, making short runs and sudden, forward-tilting pecks at the ground. The diet consists of earthworms, insects, and other small invertebrates. After nesting the birds begin forming into flocks. These migrate to moister, milder wintering areas, most often in the west.

- **NEST** A hollow, scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, on open ground or in grass, lined with plant stems and grass from within reach.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across Eurasia. Winters as far south as N. Africa and N.W. India but mainly in Europe.


slender, black crest
female's throat and face are whiter than the male's in summer
SUMMER MALE

DISTRIBUTION

SUMMER FEMALE

WINTER (BOTH SEXES)

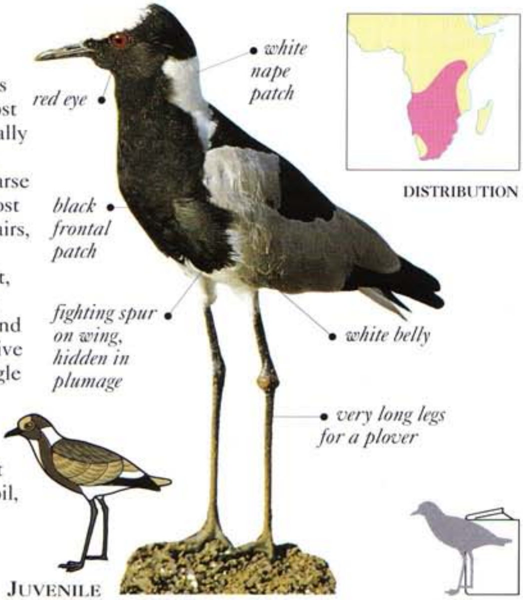
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family CHARADRIIDAE	Species *Vanellus armatus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

BLACKSMITH PLOVER

A conspicuous but wary bird, the Blacksmith Plover gets its name from its loud, clinking alarm note. This is its most frequently heard call, although it is usually silent unless disturbed. It lives in open landscapes with moist, short grass or sparse bushes, close to lakes or large rivers. Most of the time birds are seen singly or in pairs, although they sometimes form flocks, particularly when not breeding. In flight, conspicuous features are broad wings, a flapping wingbeat, white underwings, and a white tail with a black tip. This assertive species has a sharp spur on the front angle of the wing, which is used when fighting. The diet consists of insects, worms, and mollusks.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure in open soil, sparsely lined with small pebbles, dry fragments of dung, or plant stems.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Open country areas in Africa south of the Equator.


red eye
white nape patch
black frontal patch
fighting spur on wing, hidden in plumage
white belly
very long legs for a plover

JUVENILE

DISTRIBUTION

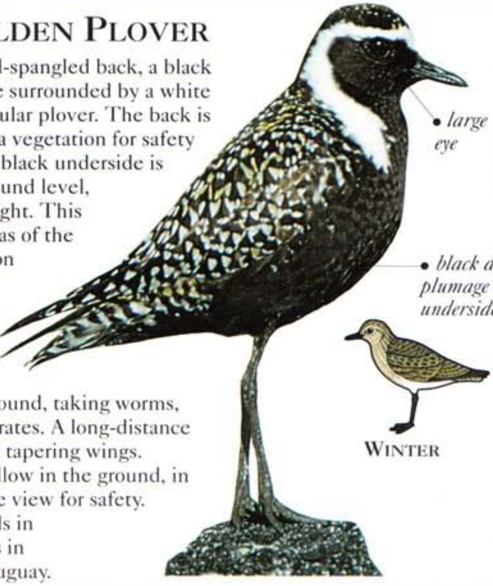
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CHARADRIIDAE	Species *Pluvialis dominica*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

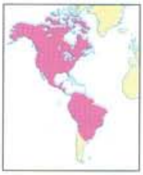
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER

The combination of a gold-spangled back, a black underside, and a black face surrounded by a white border make this a spectacular plover. The back is camouflaged against tundra vegetation for safety from birds of prey, but the black underside is visible to other birds at ground level, especially in the display flight. This species breeds on drier areas of the Arctic tundra and winters on coasts, marshes, and sometimes grassland. It feeds in the typical manner of a plover, running rapidly and snatching prey from the ground, taking worms, insects, and other invertebrates. A long-distance migrant, it flies strongly on tapering wings.

- **NEST** A thinly lined hollow in the ground, in an exposed site with a wide view for safety.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. North America. Winters in S. Brazil, N. Argentina, Uruguay.



WINTER



DISTRIBUTION

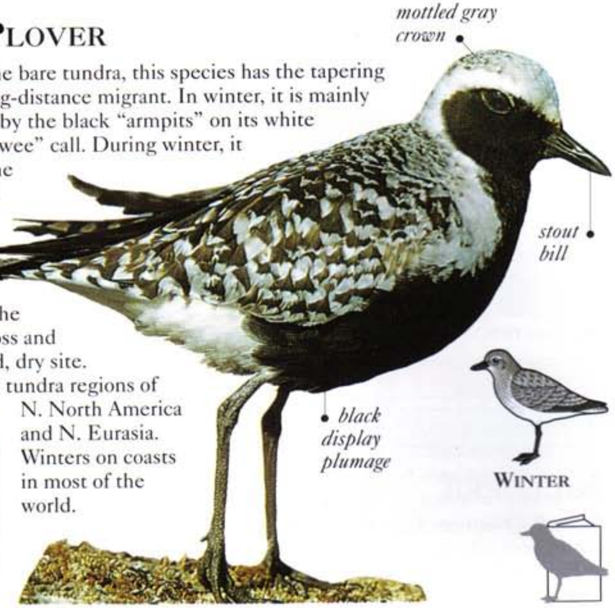
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

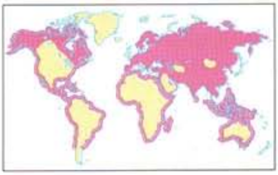
Family CHARADRIIDAE	Species *Pluvialis squatarola*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER

A black-and-white plover of the bare tundra, this species has the tapering wings and strong flight of a long-distance migrant. In winter, it is mainly ash-gray and can be identified by the black "armpits" on its white underside and by its "thee-oo-wee" call. During winter, it feeds on mudflats whenever the tide is out. Feeding birds walk slowly forward, probing the mud for worms, small shellfish, crustaceans, and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, sparsely lined with moss and fragments of lichen, on a raised, dry site.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in tundra regions of N. North America and N. Eurasia. Winters on coasts in most of the world.





DISTRIBUTION

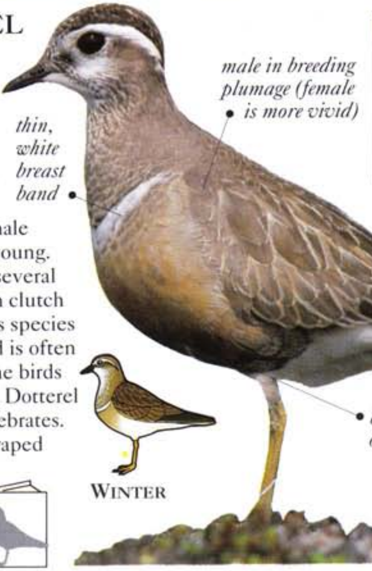
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

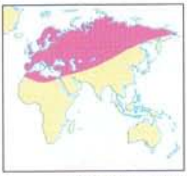
Family CHARADRIIDAE	Species *Eudromias morinellus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

EURASIAN DOTTEREL

This species of plover breeds on high mountains, where the summer is short. The female is slightly larger than the male, and her breeding plumage has stronger colors. She takes the dominant role in breeding and displays to attract a mate. After the eggs are laid, the male helps incubate them and tend the young. Sometimes the female mates with several males, who each incubate their own clutch of eggs and care for the young. This species is unaccustomed to disturbance and is often tame and trusting. After breeding, the birds gather into small flocks and migrate. Dotterel eat insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, situated in the open.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Eurasia. Winters in the Mediterranean region.


thin, white breast band
male in breeding plumage (female is more vivid)
blackish belly patch of breeding plumage
WINTER



DISTRIBUTION

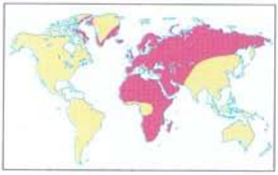
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family	Species	Length
CHARADRIIDAE	*Charadrius hiaticula*	7½ in (19 cm)

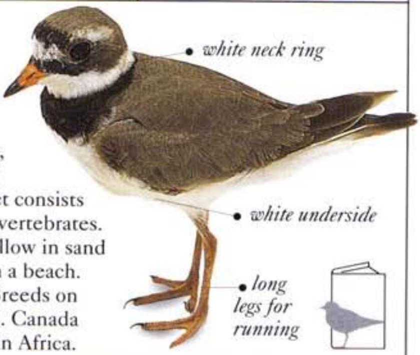
RINGED PLOVER

With its black-and-white markings, this bird is camouflaged against a background of pebbles. In flight it shows a white wing stripe. It occurs on coasts, mudflats, and beaches, and sometimes beside inland waters. The diet consists of small insects and invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in sand or pebbles, situated on a beach.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on Arctic coasts from N.E. Canada to E. Siberia. Winters in Africa.



DISTRIBUTION



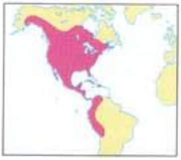
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike		Migrant

Family	Species	Length
CHARADRIIDAE	*Charadrius vociferus*	10½ in (27 cm)

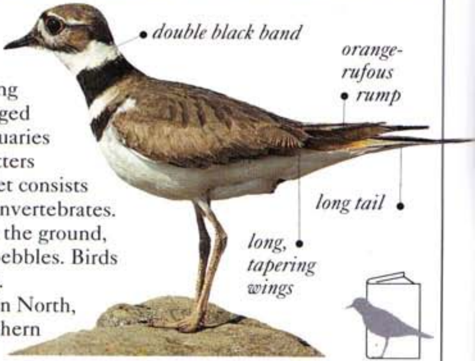
KILLDEER

Like the Northern Lapwing in Europe, this large plover occurs on farmland, although with its tapering wings and white wing stripe it is more like the Ringed Plover. It feeds in grassland, marshes, and river estuaries and is often seen near houses. A noisy species, it utters shrill "kill-dee" calls. The diet consists of insects, worms, and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, sometimes lined with a few pebbles. Birds occasionally nest on flat roofs.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North, Central, South America. Northern birds migrate south.



DISTRIBUTION



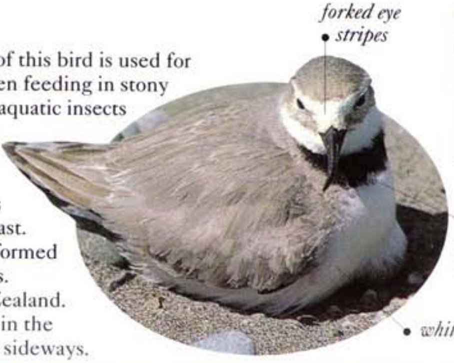
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike		Migrant

Family	Species	Length
CHARADRIIDAE	*Anarhynchus frontalis*	8 in (20 cm)

WRYBILL

The sideways-curving bill of this bird is used for reaching under pebbles when feeding in stony riverbeds. The Wrybill eats aquatic insects and invertebrates, and possibly fish eggs as well. It nests on shingle banks by rivers, and winters in flocks on inlets by the coast.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow formed by the birds, among pebbles.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand.
- **REMARK** The only bird in the world with a bill that curves sideways.



DISTRIBUTION

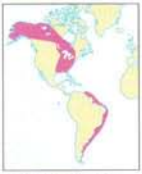
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike		Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Limosa haemastica*	Length 15½ in (39 cm)

HUDSONIAN GODWIT

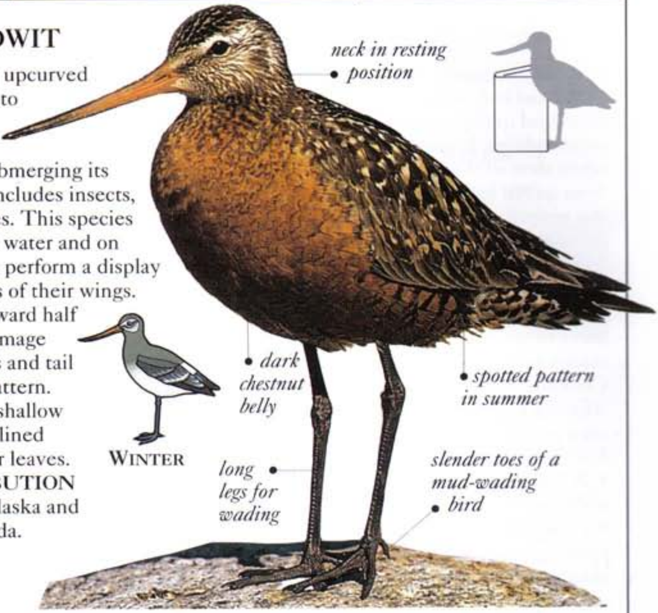
Long legs and a long, slightly upcurved bill equip this large shorebird to walk and feed in tall grass as well as mud. It also wades belly-deep in water, submerging its head and neck to feed. Prey includes insects, worms, and other invertebrates. This species nests on marshland near open water and on estuaries. In spring, the males perform a display flight, showing the undersides of their wings. These are white, with the forward half black. In winter, the body plumage becomes duller, but the wings and tail keep their black-and-white pattern.

- **NEST** A shallow depression, lined with moss or leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Alaska and Arctic Canada. Winters in S.E. South America.



DISTRIBUTION

WINTER


neck in resting position
dark chestnut belly
spotted pattern in summer
long legs for wading
slender toes of a mud-wading bird

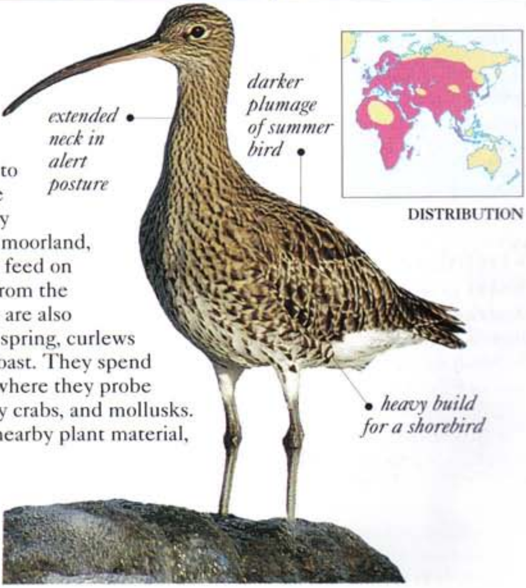
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Numenius arquata*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

COMMON CURLEW

This large, streaky-brown shorebird has a dignified stride and a long, down-curved bill. Although it lacks vivid markings, its "courlee" call and graceful, bubbling song draw attention to the species. Curlews are also noticeable when performing their territorial display flights. The breeding habitat is upland moorland, grassland, and peat bog. Here the birds feed on insects and other invertebrates, taken from the ground with the long bill. Small berries are also eaten. Having lived in pairs during the spring, curlews form flocks when they migrate to the coast. They spend the winter on seashores and estuaries, where they probe deeply into mud or sand for worms, tiny crabs, and mollusks.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow, lined with nearby plant material, usually located in grass or heather.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Eurasia. Winters on coasts in much of Europe, Africa, and Asia.

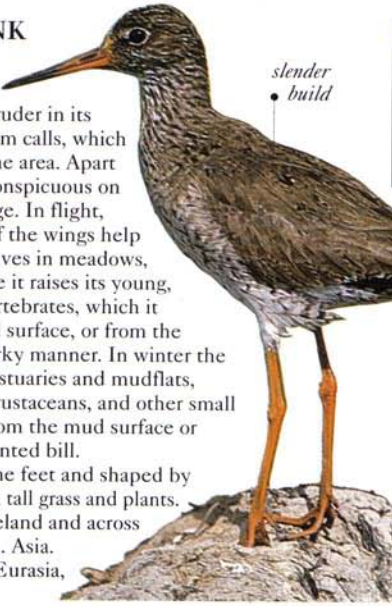

extended neck in alert posture
darker plumage of summer bird
heavy build for a shorebird

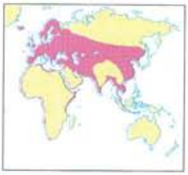
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Tringa totanus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

COMMON REDSHANK





DISTRIBUTION

Standing erect on its long legs, with head held high, this alert shorebird quickly notices any intruder in its surroundings. It utters piping alarm calls, which often alert all the other birds in the area. Apart from its red legs and bill, it is inconspicuous on the ground with its brown plumage. In flight, the white rump and hind edges of the wings help identify the species. In spring it lives in meadows, wet grasslands, and marshes. Here it raises its young, feeding on insects and other invertebrates, which it takes from vegetation, the ground surface, or from the marsh. It feeds with a nervous, jerky manner. In winter the Common Redshank is found on estuaries and mudflats, where it feeds on tiny shellfish, crustaceans, and other small creatures. These it either picks from the mud surface or finds by probing with its long, pointed bill.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, lined, and hidden in tall grass and plants.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Iceland and across Eurasia from the British Isles to E. Asia. Winters on coastlines of much of Eurasia, Africa, India, and S.E. Asia.

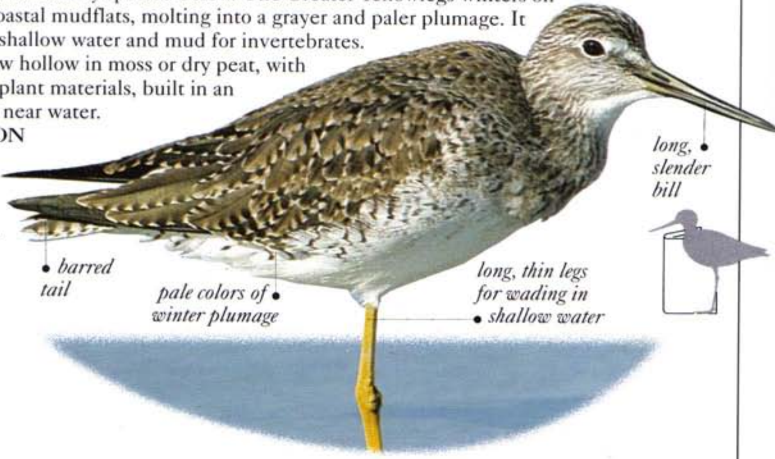
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Tringa melanoleuca*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

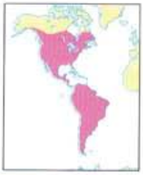
GREATER YELLOWLEGS

Typically seen wading in shallow water, this active shorebird can be recognized by its piping calls. In spring it lives in swamps and the edges of coniferous forests, and its plumage is black-and-white above and heavily spotted below. The Greater Yellowlegs winters on lake shores and coastal mudflats, molting into a grayer and paler plumage. It feeds by probing shallow water and mud for invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in moss or dry peat, with a scanty lining of plant materials, built in an open site, usually near water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America. Winters from S. USA to S. South America.



long, slender bill
barred tail
pale colors of winter plumage
long, thin legs for wading in shallow water



DISTRIBUTION

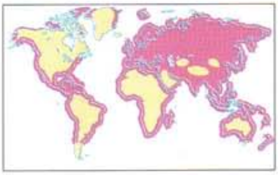
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Arenaria interpres*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

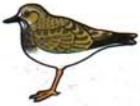
RUDDY TURNSTONE

A stout and busily active shorebird, the Ruddy Turnstone thrusts its bill under stones or fronds of seaweed, flipping them over to get at the small animals hidden underneath. In flight, white patterns on the wings and back help identify this species.

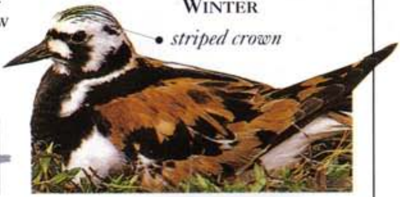
- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in the high Arctic. Winters on coasts throughout the world.



DISTRIBUTION



WINTER



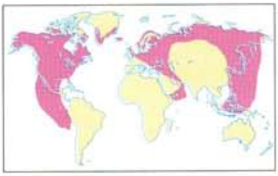
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Phalaropus lobatus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

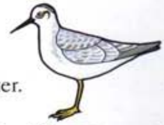
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

This dainty shorebird is a long-distance migrant. It feeds on aquatic life in tundra pools in spring and on sea plankton in winter.

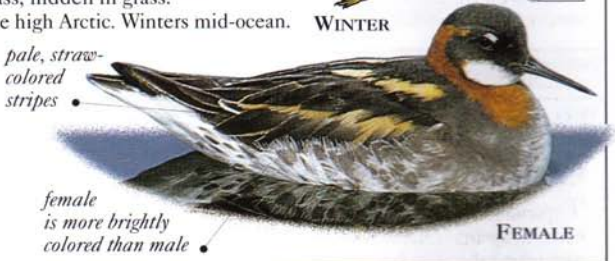
- **NEST** A hollow lined with grass, hidden in grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in the high Arctic. Winters mid-ocean.



DISTRIBUTION



WINTER



pale, straw-colored stripes
female is more brightly colored than male

FEMALE

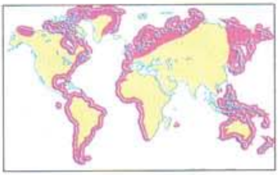
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Calidris canutus*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

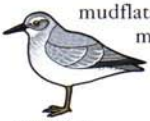
RED KNOT

In summer, when few people see this bird, its plumage is a blend of chestnut, black, and white. In winter, it is pale gray, and flocks are seen on mudflats, feeding on invertebrates.

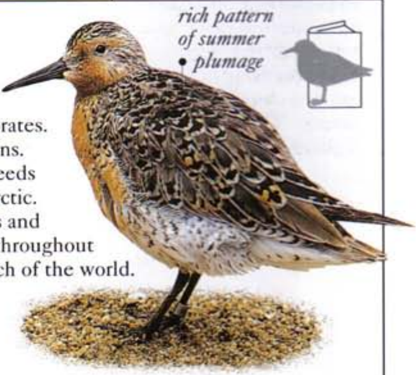
- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, lined with lichens.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on tundra in the high Arctic. Winters on coastal sands and mudflats throughout much of the world.



DISTRIBUTION



WINTER



rich pattern of summer plumage

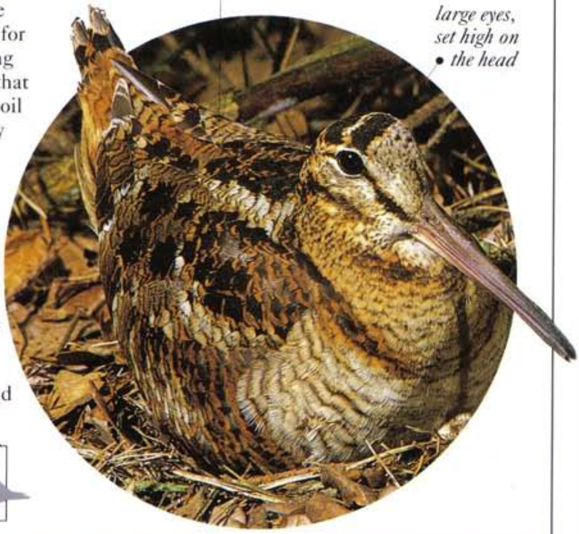
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

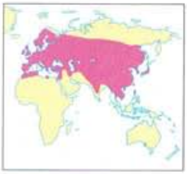
Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Scolopax rusticola*	Length 13½ in (34 cm)

EURASIAN WOODCOCK

The main habitat of this species, in winter and summer alike, is woodland. Active mainly after dark, it walks and probes for food in moist and marshy areas. Its long bill has a flexible, touch-sensitive tip that is useful for probing into mud or soft soil to locate invertebrates. In their display behavior, known as "roding," males fly slowly at treetop level over their territories, uttering piping and croaking calls, at dusk and dawn.

- **NEST** A hollow in mossy ground, lined with a layer of dead leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across much of Eurasia. Winters as far south as N. Africa, India, and S.E. Asia, moving west as well as south.





DISTRIBUTION

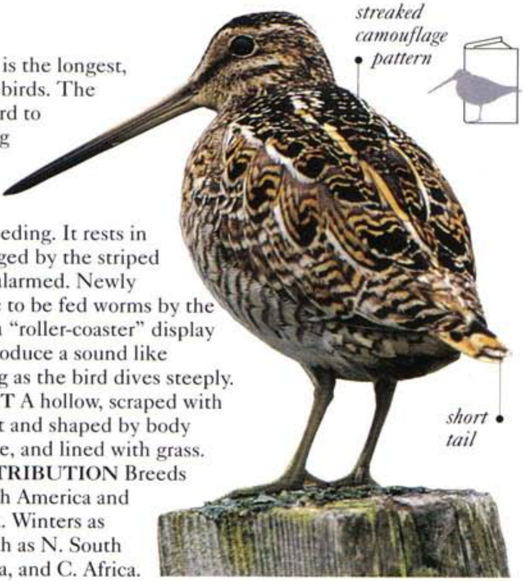
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

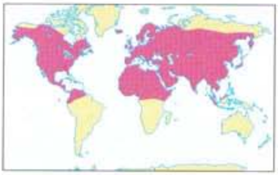
Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Gallinago gallinago*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

COMMON SNIPE

The straight bill of the Common Snipe is the longest, in proportion to its body, of all the shorebirds. The tip of the bill is flexible, enabling the bird to probe into soft mud, sensing and feeding on worms, small mollusks, and other creatures. The eyes are set high on either side of the head, allowing it to remain vigilant when resting and feeding. It rests in low marsh vegetation or grass, camouflaged by the striped plumage, rising in twisting flight when alarmed. Newly hatched chicks have short bills and have to be fed worms by the parents. The Common Snipe performs a "roller-coaster" display flight, in which the outer tail feathers produce a sound like bleating as the bird dives steeply.

- **NEST** A hollow, scraped with the feet and shaped by body pressure, and lined with grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and Eurasia. Winters as far south as N. South America, and C. Africa.





DISTRIBUTION

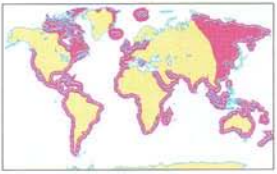
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

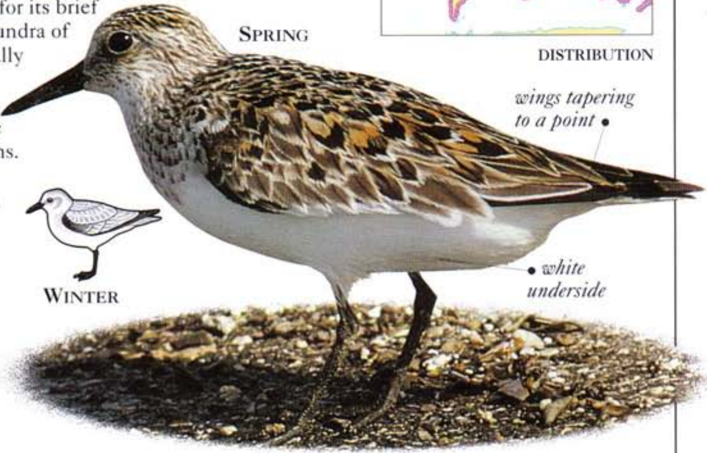
Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Calidris alba*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

SANDERLING

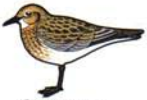
Looking like a little mechanical toy, the Sanderling chases the waves up and down the beach, snatching tiny shellfish, shrimps, sandhoppers, and other small animals thrown up by the water. It lives on coasts for most of the year, except for its brief breeding season in the tundra of the Arctic region. It usually occurs in flocks, at times with other shorebirds.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with lichens.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Arctic Canada, Greenland, and Siberia. Winters on coasts throughout most of the world.


DISTRIBUTION


SPRING

WINTER


SUMMER

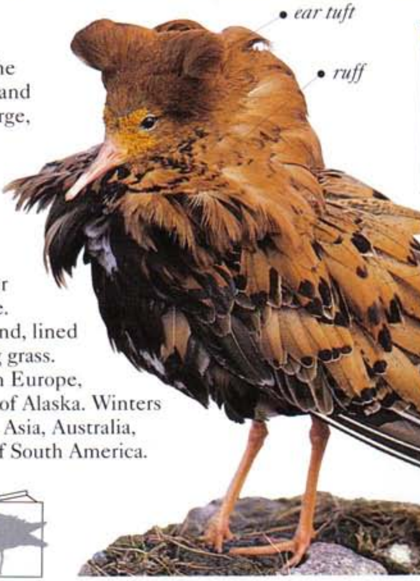
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

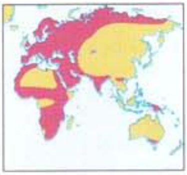
Family SCOLOPACIDAE	Species *Philomachus pugnax*	L. 12 in (30 cm)/10 in (25 cm)

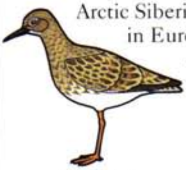
RUFF

A marsh and grassland bird, the Ruff feeds on insects, worms, and seeds. Breeding males have large, feathery ruffs and ear tufts, which vary individually in color and pattern. Males display in competition with one another on the "lek," a special piece of ground, to impress females (reeves). After mating, the females nest alone.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, lined with grass and situated in long grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Europe, Arctic Siberia, and part of Alaska. Winters in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and parts of South America.




DISTRIBUTION

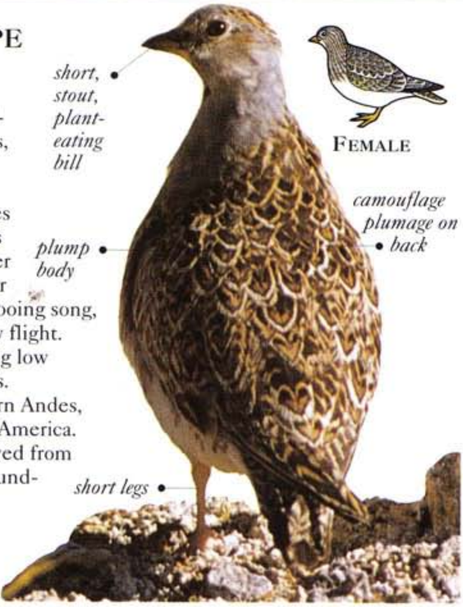

FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family THINOCORIDAE	Species *Thinocorus orbignyianus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

GRAY-BREASTED SEEDSNIPE

This hardy species lives on the high plateau of the southern Andes, only moving to lower altitudes during severe weather. It is a ground-dwelling bird with a round body and short legs, using its short, stubby bill to feed on seeds, berries, and other parts of plants. It walks and runs rapidly but, if alarmed, crouches and relies on camouflage. When forced to flee, it escapes in zig-zag flight, usually returning to cover after a short distance. Both sexes utter brief alarm or contact calls. Birds also perform a repetitive, cooing song, either from the top of a rock or in a low display flight.



- **NEST** A depression in an open site or among low vegetation, sparsely lined with plant fragments.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Southern Andes, and extreme south of South America.
- **REMARK** This bird evolved from the shorebirds, but in its ground-dwelling life-style and behavior it is more like a gamebird, such as a partridge.

DISTRIBUTION

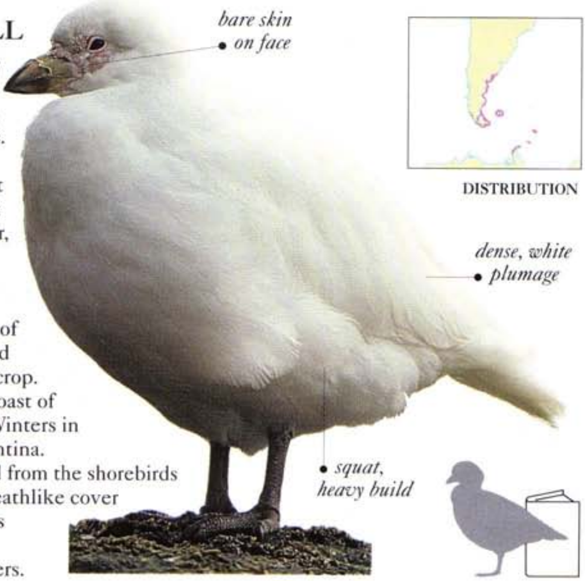
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family CHIONIDIDAE	Species *Chionis alba*	Length 15½ in (39 cm)

SNOWY SHEATHBILL

This is a scavenging bird of rocky South Atlantic coasts, where it visits colonies of seals, penguins, cormorants, and of other seabirds. It feeds on eggs and any kind of carrion. Despite its squat shape it is a fast and agile runner. On short flights, it looks ungainly in the air, with its legs dangling, but it flies more strongly, with feet tucked up, when crossing open water.

- **NEST** An untidy construction of shells, pebbles, and stones, placed in a crevice in a cliff or rocky outcrop.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coast of Antarctica and offshore islands. Winters in the Falkland Islands and S. Argentina.
- **REMARK** This species evolved from the shorebirds and became a scavenger. The sheathlike cover on its bill, and the bare skin on its face, enable it to eat messy food without harming the bill or feathers.



DISTRIBUTION

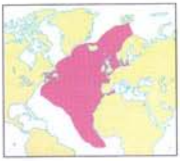
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family **STERCORARIIDAE**	Species *Catharacta skua*	Length 23 in (58 cm)

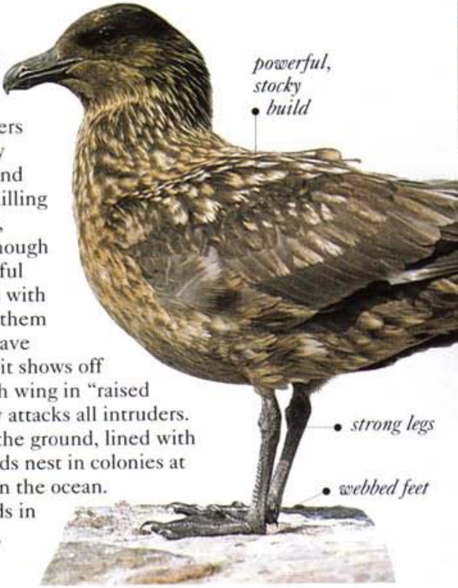
GREAT SKUA

Resembling a large, brown gull, this species is a powerful, predatory seabird that dominates others within its range. It feeds by catching fish, taking eggs and nestlings of seabirds, and killing adult birds, including gulls, ducks, and shorebirds. Although its flight is normally powerful and slow, it can chase birds with speed and agility. It forces them to disgorge fish that they have swallowed. When nesting, it shows off a large, white patch on each wing in "raised wing" displays and fiercely attacks all intruders.

- **NEST** A depression on the ground, lined with grass, moss, or heather. Birds nest in colonies at a few locations on islands in the ocean.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Atlantic. Winters at sea, some birds reaching equatorial waters.



DISTRIBUTION



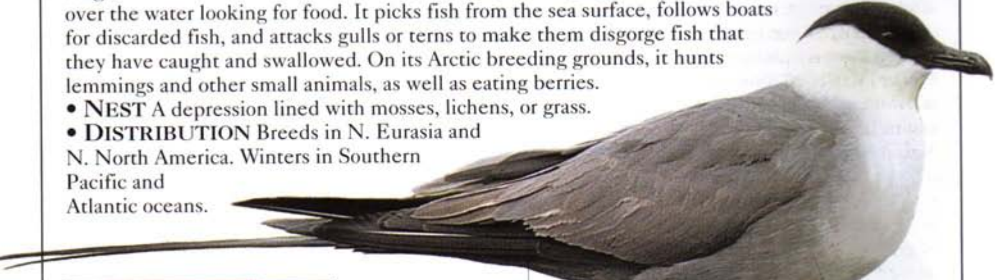
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

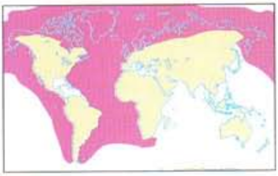
Family **STERCORARIIDAE**	Species *Stercorarius longicaudus*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

LONG-TAILED JAEGER

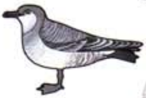
This small, lightly built seabird has long, narrow wings and, when fully grown, long central tail feathers. It flies with great agility, soaring upward, or hovering over the water looking for food. It picks fish from the sea surface, follows boats for discarded fish, and attacks gulls or terns to make them disgorge fish that they have caught and swallowed. On its Arctic breeding grounds, it hunts lemmings and other small animals, as well as eating berries.

- **NEST** A depression lined with mosses, lichens, or grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Eurasia and N. North America. Winters in Southern Pacific and Atlantic oceans.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

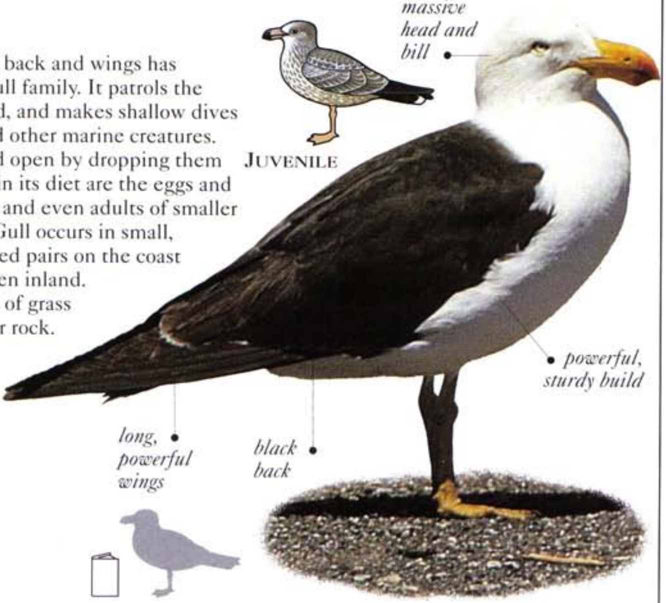
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

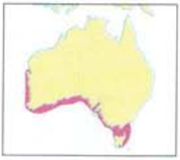
Family LARIDAE	Species *Larus pacificus*	Length 25 in (63 cm)

PACIFIC GULL

This large gull with black back and wings has the largest bill of all the gull family. It patrols the shoreline, foraging for food, and makes shallow dives after fish, squid, crabs, and other marine creatures. Large shellfish are cracked open by dropping them onto rocks. Also included in its diet are the eggs and young of nesting seabirds, and even adults of smaller bird species. The Pacific Gull occurs in small, loose colonies or in scattered pairs on the coast and is only occasionally seen inland.

- **NEST** A loose structure of grass and plants, under a bush or rock.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Restricted to coastal areas of W. and S. Australia.




DISTRIBUTION

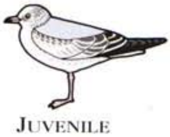
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Non-migrant

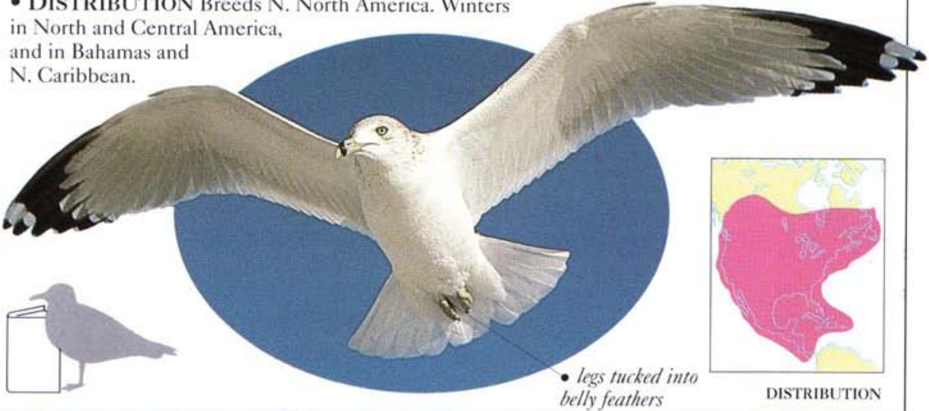
Family LARIDAE	Species *Larus delawarensis*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

RING-BILLED GULL

This gull has a pearl-gray back and a black band toward the tip of its bill. It nests in noisy colonies, usually beside a lake or reservoir, but in winter it is more often seen on the coast. It looks for food wherever the opportunity arises, catching fish, hunting invertebrates on the ground, or seeking out carrion.

- **NEST** An untidy nest, made of vegetation, situated on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds N. North America. Winters in North and Central America, and in Bahamas and N. Caribbean.


JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

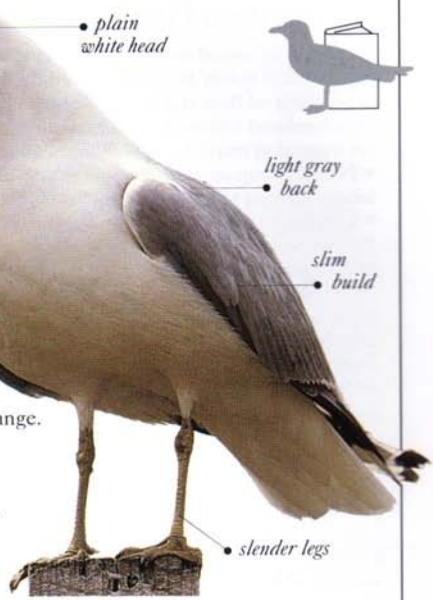
Family LARIDAE	Species *Larus canus*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

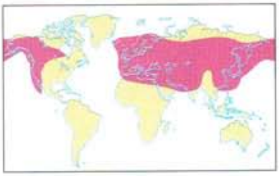
MEW GULL

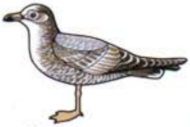
Seen alongside other gulls, this species has a relatively fine bill, giving the head a neat, rounded look. The Mew Gull often comes inland and often feeds on the ground. Typical food items are worms, insects, mice, berries, and fallen grain on farmland. It also forages in shallow waters. This species nests in colonies, on the coast or inland, sometimes on moors or grassland away from water.

- **NEST** A natural hollow in the ground, lined with dried grass and other plant materials.

DISTRIBUTION Breeds in much of Eurasia, N. Africa, W. and N. North America. Northern populations migrate south within breeding range.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

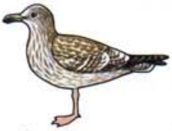
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≈	Migration Partial migrant

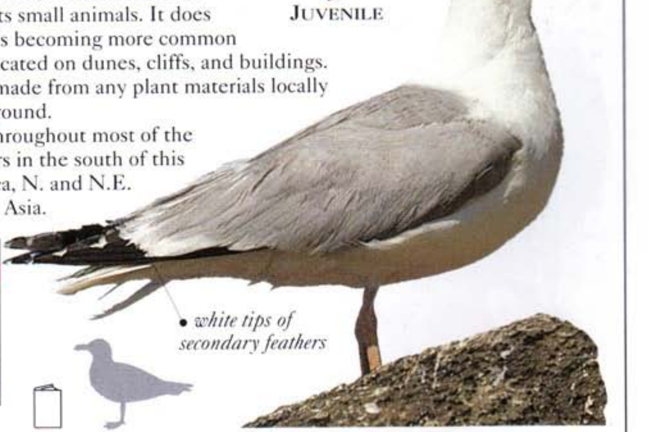
Family LARIDAE	Species *Larus argentatus*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

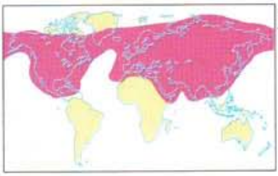
HERRING GULL

Well known for its presence in coastal towns, harbors, and garbage dumps, this powerful gull, with its yodeling calls and wails, typifies the seaside for many people. Always ready to exploit any source of food, it has become an urban scavenger, and also hunts small animals. It does not venture far out to sea but is becoming more common inland. Nesting colonies are located on dunes, cliffs, and buildings.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest, made from any plant materials locally available, and placed on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds throughout most of the Northern Hemisphere. Winters in the south of this range, as far as Central America, N. and N.E. Africa, India, and parts of S.E. Asia.


JUVENILE




DISTRIBUTION

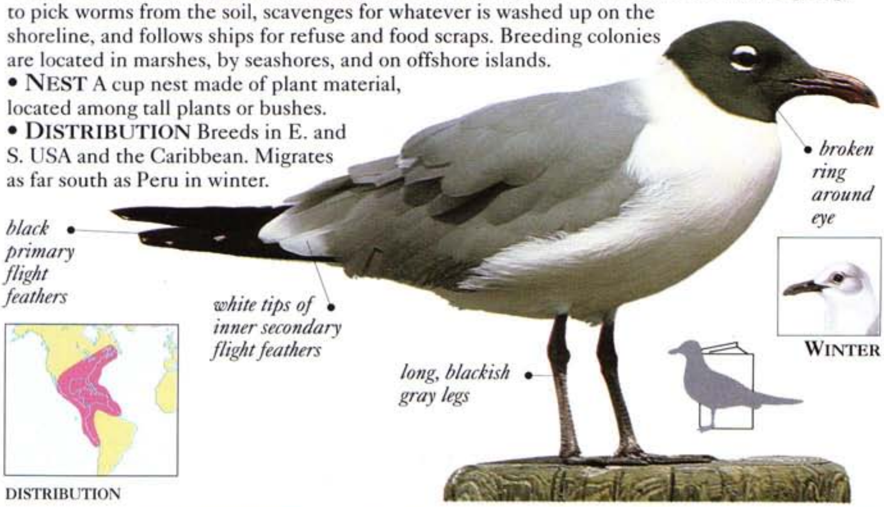
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family LARIDAE	Species *Larus atricilla*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

LAUGHING GULL

Common in coastal areas of North America in summer, this gull is recognized by its very dark "hood." It is boldly inquisitive, feeding wherever the opportunity occurs: it follows the plough to pick worms from the soil, scavenges for whatever is washed up on the shoreline, and follows ships for refuse and food scraps. Breeding colonies are located in marshes, by seashores, and on offshore islands.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of plant material, located among tall plants or bushes.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in E. and S. USA and the Caribbean. Migrates as far south as Peru in winter.


broken ring around eye
black primary flight feathers
white tips of inner secondary flight feathers
long, blackish gray legs
WINTER
DISTRIBUTION

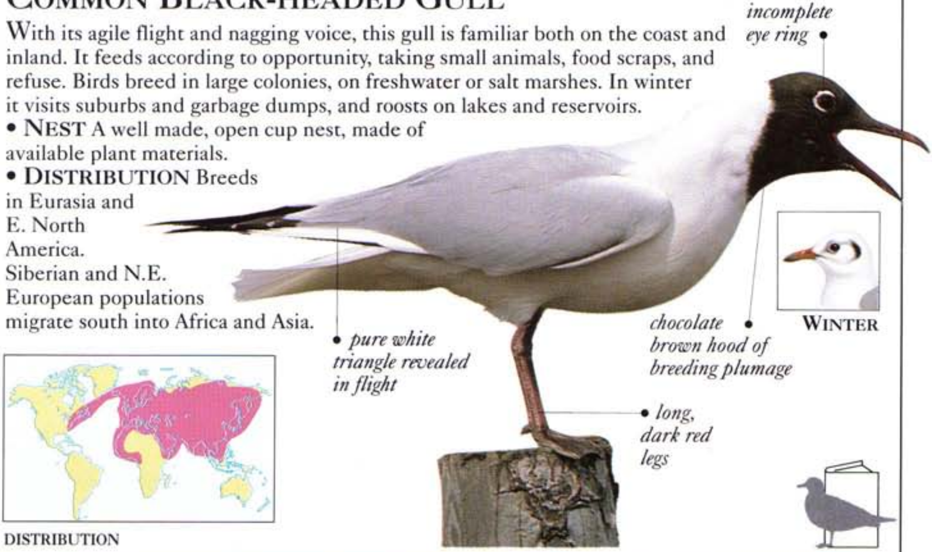
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family LARIDAE	Species *Larus ridibundus*	Length 16 in (41 cm)

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL

With its agile flight and nagging voice, this gull is familiar both on the coast and inland. It feeds according to opportunity, taking small animals, food scraps, and refuse. Birds breed in large colonies, on freshwater or salt marshes. In winter it visits suburbs and garbage dumps, and roosts on lakes and reservoirs.

- **NEST** A well made, open cup nest, made of available plant materials.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia and E. North America. Siberian and N.E. European populations migrate south into Africa and Asia.


incomplete eye ring
pure white triangle revealed in flight
chocolate brown hood of breeding plumage
WINTER
long, dark red legs
DISTRIBUTION

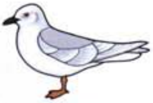
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family LARIDAE | Species *Rhodostethia rosea* | Length 13½ in (34 cm)

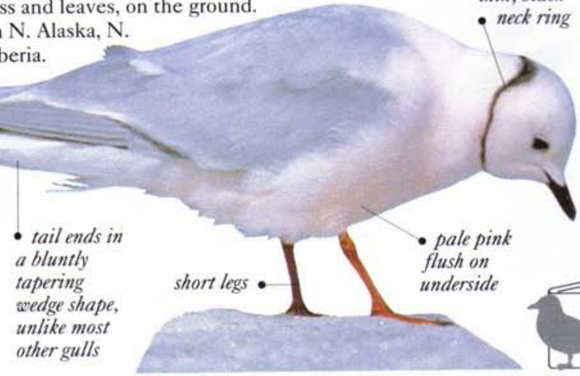
ROSS' GULL

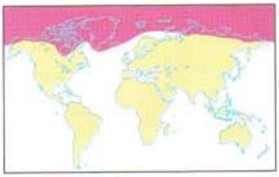
This small gull is an inhabitant of the high Arctic. It nests in small colonies on the coast, dispersing along the shore and out to islands, and winters at sea at the edge of the pack ice. When seen in the air, it can be identified by the gray undersides of its wings and by the tapering shape of the tail. Ross' Gull feeds by swooping to take food from the surface or makes very shallow surface dives after small fish or crustaceans, and sometimes walks on mudflats to pick up small invertebrates.

- **NEST** A cup nest of dry grass and leaves, on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. Alaska, N. Canada, Greenland, and N. Siberia. Winters on Arctic, N. Atlantic, and N. Pacific Oceans.



WINTER


thin, black neck ring
tail ends in a bluntly tapering wedge shape, unlike most other gulls
short legs
pale pink flush on underside



DISTRIBUTION

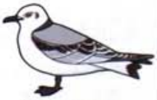
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat ≋ ≋ | Migration Migrant

Family LARIDAE | Species *Rissa tridactyla* | Length 17 in (43 cm)

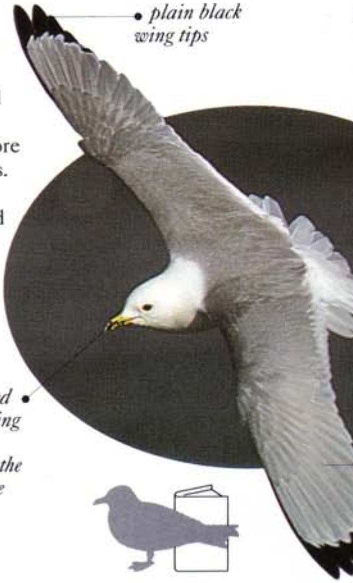
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

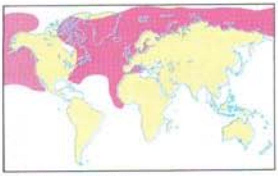
A small gull with short legs and a notched tail, this species lives on the open sea throughout much of the year, coming ashore to breed on cliffs and on the walls of caves. It feeds on small crustaceans and fish.

- **NEST** A tightly trampled, drum-shaped nest of mud, grass, and seaweed, placed on a small projection or ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coasts of Arctic, N. Atlantic, and N. Pacific Oceans. Winters at sea as far south as the tropics.



JUVENILE


plain black wing tips
bill marked with floating oil while feeding at the sea surface
plain gray back and wings



DISTRIBUTION

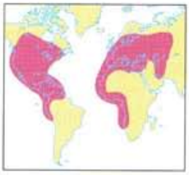
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋ | Migration Migrant

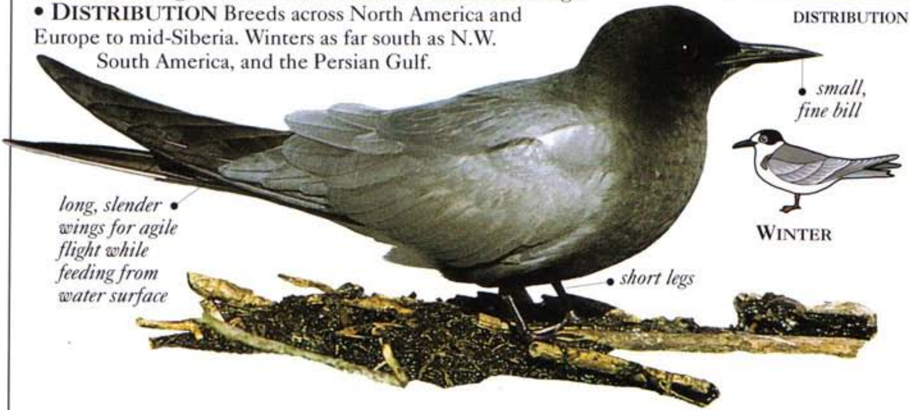
Family LARIDAE
Species *Chlidonias niger*
Length 10 in (25 cm)

BLACK TERN

Occurring inland in summer and by the sea in winter, this bird flies over water to feed. It dips down to pick insects and small fish from the surface, without diving. Breeding colonies are located on shallow lakes and flooded marshes.

- **NEST** An untidy heap of waterplants, lined with finer material, floating on the water, or situated at the water's edge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across North America and Europe to mid-Siberia. Winters as far south as N.W. South America, and the Persian Gulf.


DISTRIBUTION


small, fine bill
WINTER
long, slender wings for agile flight while feeding from water surface
short legs

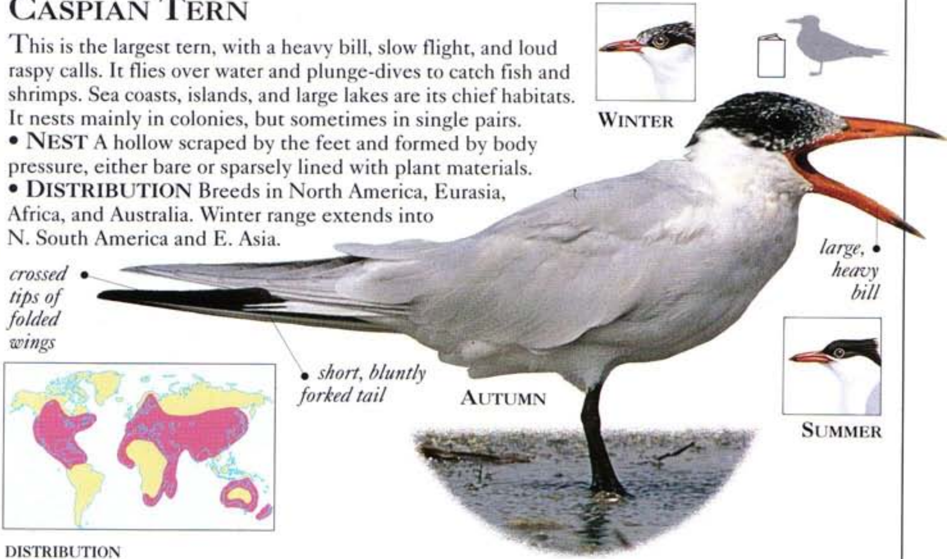
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat ≈ ≈ ≈
Migration Migrant

Family LARIDAE
Species *Sterna caspia*
Length 21 in (53 cm)

CASPIAN TERN

This is the largest tern, with a heavy bill, slow flight, and loud raspy calls. It flies over water and plunge-dives to catch fish and shrimps. Sea coasts, islands, and large lakes are its chief habitats. It nests mainly in colonies, but sometimes in single pairs.

- **NEST** A hollow scraped by the feet and formed by body pressure, either bare or sparsely lined with plant materials.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America, Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. Winter range extends into N. South America and E. Asia.


WINTER
large, heavy bill
SUMMER
crossed tips of folded wings
short, bluntly forked tail
AUTUMN

DISTRIBUTION

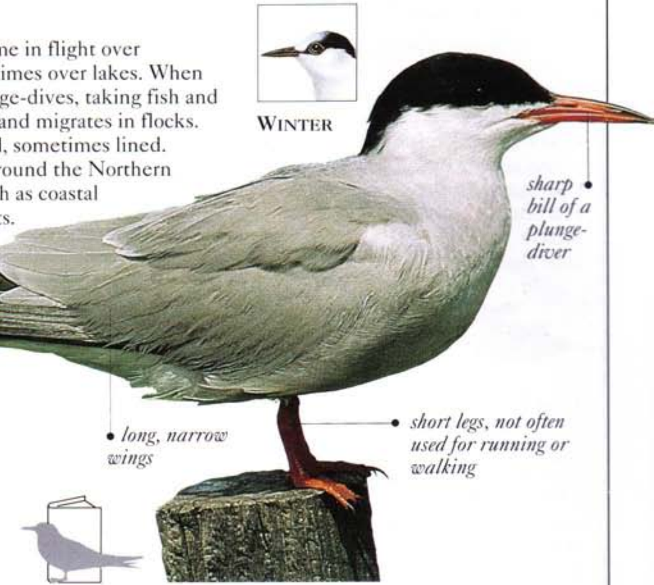
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat ≈ ≈ ≈
Migration Migrant

Family LARIDAE	Species *Sterna hirundo*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

COMMON TERN

This bird spends much of its time in flight over water, normally at sea but sometimes over lakes. When feeding, it hovers and then plunge-dives, taking fish and crustaceans. It nests in colonies and migrates in flocks.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground, sometimes lined.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds all round the Northern Hemisphere. Winters as far south as coastal waters of the southern continents.

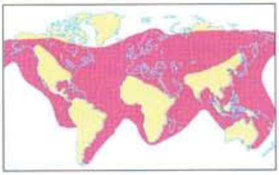

WINTER

sharp bill of a plunge-diver

long, forked tail

long, narrow wings

short legs, not often used for running or walking


DISTRIBUTION

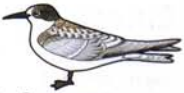
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋ ≋	Migration Migrant

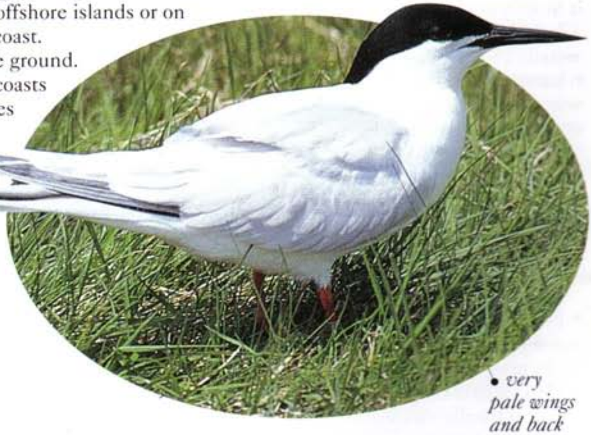
Family LARIDAE	Species *Sterna dougallii*	Length 15½ in (39 cm)

ROSEATE TERN

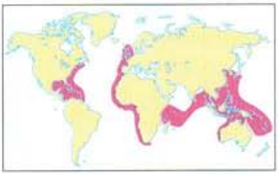
A graceful, seagoing tern with long tail streamers, this species develops a pink tinge on its mostly white plumage, when breeding. It feeds by plunge-diving for small fish. Nesting colonies are located on offshore islands or on banks of sand or shingle by the coast.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coasts in parts of all continents. Migrates within this range when not breeding.


JUVENILE


long, deeply forked tail

very pale wings and back

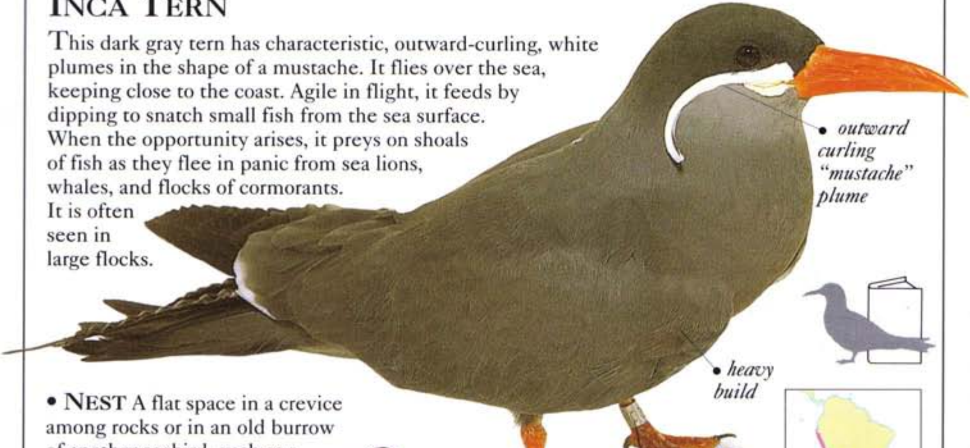

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Migrant

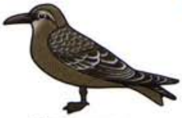
Family LARIDAE	Species *Larosterna inca*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

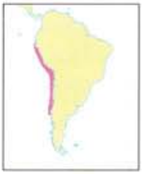
INCA TERN

This dark gray tern has characteristic, outward-curling, white plumes in the shape of a mustache. It flies over the sea, keeping close to the coast. Agile in flight, it feeds by dipping to snatch small fish from the sea surface. When the opportunity arises, it preys on shoals of fish as they flee in panic from sea lions, whales, and flocks of cormorants. It is often seen in large flocks.


• *outward curling "mustache" plume*
• *heavy build*
• *migration study ring*

- **NEST** A flat space in a crevice among rocks or in an old burrow of another seabird, such as a diving-petrel or penguin.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in South America on coasts of Peru and N. Chile. Winters from Ecuador south to C. Chile.


JUVENILE

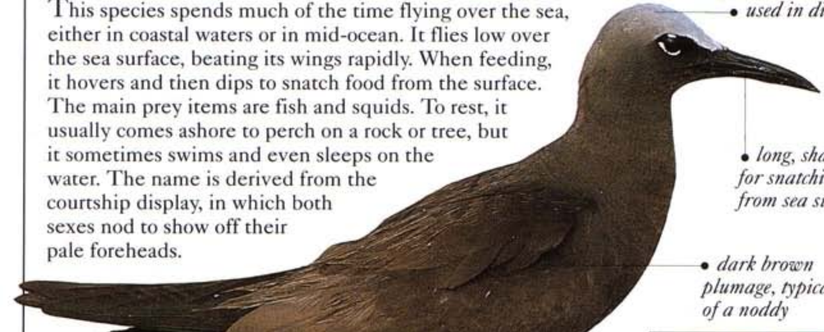

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ⛰	Migration Migrant

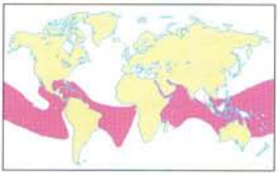
Family LARIDAE	Species *Anous stolidus*	Length 15½ in (39 cm)

BROWN NODDY

This species spends much of the time flying over the sea, either in coastal waters or in mid-ocean. It flies low over the sea surface, beating its wings rapidly. When feeding, it hovers and then dips to snatch food from the surface. The main prey items are fish and squids. To rest, it usually comes ashore to perch on a rock or tree, but it sometimes swims and even sleeps on the water. The name is derived from the courtship display, in which both sexes nod to show off their pale foreheads.


pale forehead patch • *used in display*
• *long, sharp bill for snatching prey from sea surface*
• *dark brown plumage, typical of a noddy*

- **NEST** A mass of twigs and seaweed, placed in a tree, in a bush, or on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.


DISTRIBUTION

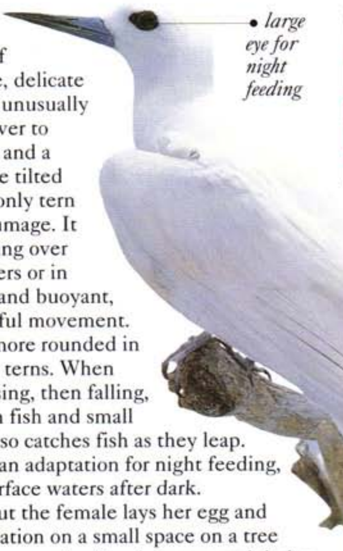
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

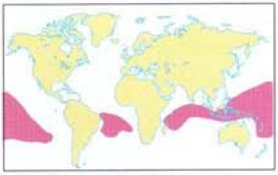
Family STERNIDAE	Species *Gygis alba*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

WHITE TERN

This is an elegant sea tern of tropical oceans, with a gentle, delicate appearance. In behavior it is unusually tame and will allow an observer to approach. It has a forked tail and a slender bill that appears to be tilted slightly upward. This is the only tern species that has all-white plumage. It spends much of the time flying over the sea, either in coastal waters or in mid-ocean. Its flight is light and buoyant, combining agility with graceful movement. The wings are broader and more rounded in flight than are those of other terns. When feeding at sea, it follows a rising, then falling, flight path, dipping to snatch fish and small squids from the surface. It also catches fish as they leap. The large eyes appear to be an adaptation for night feeding, its prey normally rising to surface waters after dark.

- **NEST** No nest is made, but the female lays her egg and balances it throughout incubation on a small space on a tree branch, in the fork of a twig, on a palm frond, or on a rock ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.





DISTRIBUTION

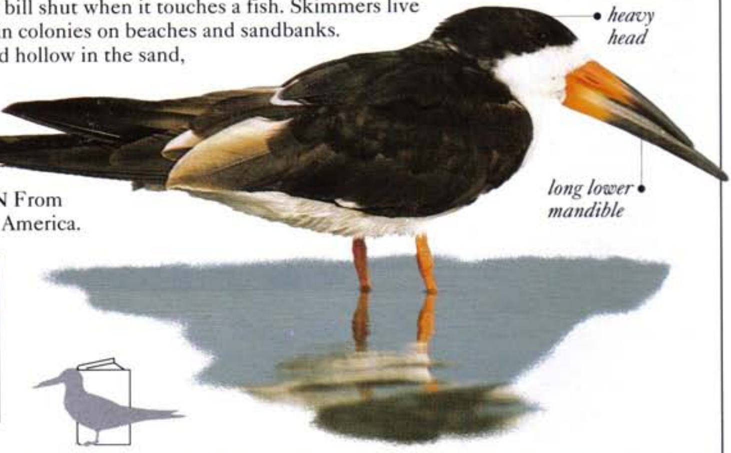
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

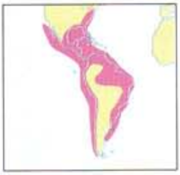
Family RHYNCHOPIDAE	Species *Rhynchops niger*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

BLACK SKIMMER

Seen on coasts, estuaries, and rivers, this bird has a distinctive bill in which the lower mandible is longer than the upper one and is flattened sideways like a vertical knife blade. When feeding, the Black Skimmer flies along the water surface and ploughs the lower mandible through the water, snapping the bill shut when it touches a fish. Skimmers live in flocks, breeding in colonies on beaches and sandbanks.

- **NEST** An unlined hollow in the sand, formed by feet and body pressure.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. USA to S. South America.





DISTRIBUTION

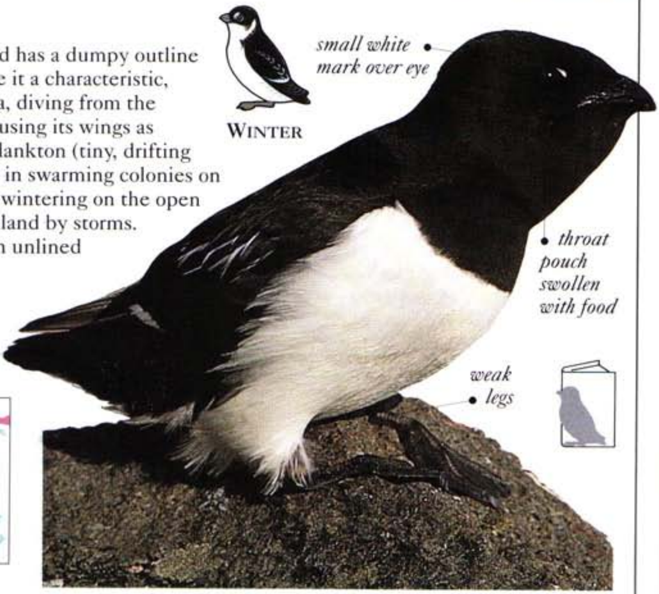
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family ALCIDAE	Species *Alle alle*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

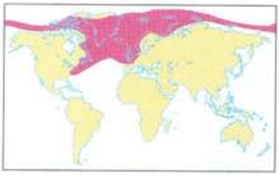
DOVEKIE

This black-and-white seabird has a dumpy outline and narrow wings, which give it a characteristic, whirring flight. It feeds at sea, diving from the surface to swim underwater, using its wings as flippers, and taking animal plankton (tiny, drifting marine life). Dovekies breed in swarming colonies on rocky screes in the far north, wintering on the open sea, and sometimes driven inland by storms.

- **NEST** Eggs are layed in an unlined rock crevice or in a burrow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on coasts of the Arctic Ocean. Winters at sea in N. Atlantic Ocean.



WINTER



DISTRIBUTION

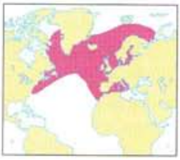
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ▲ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family ALCIDAE	Species *Alca torda*	Length 17 in (43 cm)

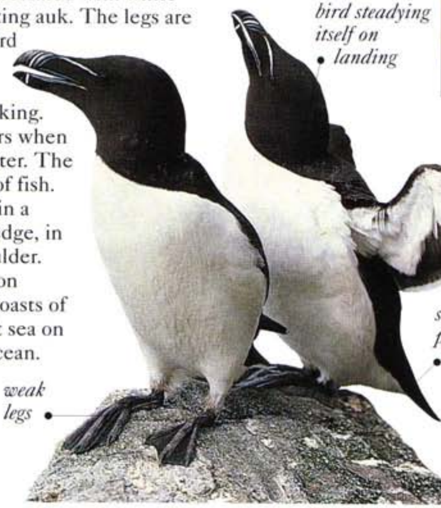
RAZORBILL

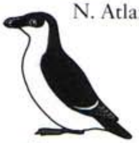
A knife-shaped, black bill, decorated with white lines, identifies this cliff-nesting auk. The legs are set well back and propel the bird when swimming on the sea surface, although they are not strong when used for walking. The wings are used as flippers when the Razorbill swims underwater. The diet consists almost entirely of fish.

- **NEST** A single egg is laid in a recess at the back of a rock ledge, in a rock crevice, or under a boulder.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on N. American and European coasts of N. Atlantic Ocean. Winters at sea on N. Atlantic Ocean.



DISTRIBUTION





WINTER

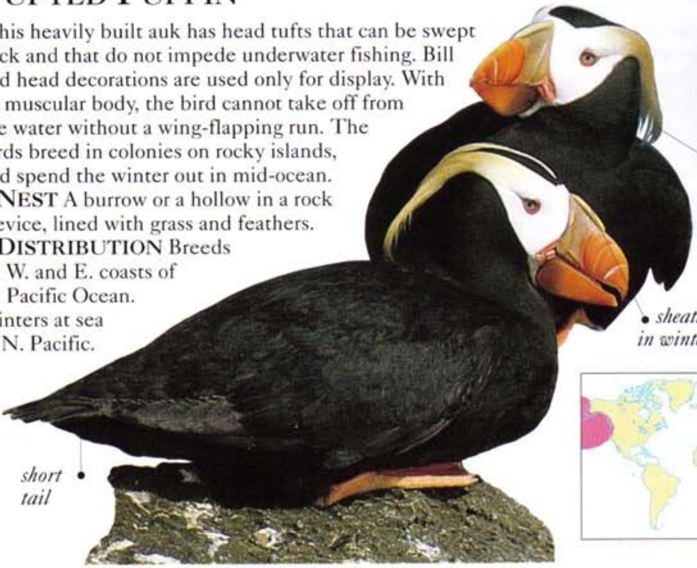
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ▲ ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family ALCIDAE	Species *Fratercula cirrhata*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

TUFTED PUFFIN

This heavily built auk has head tufts that can be swept back and that do not impede underwater fishing. Bill and head decorations are used only for display. With its muscular body, the bird cannot take off from the water without a wing-flapping run. The birds breed in colonies on rocky islands, and spend the winter out in mid-ocean.

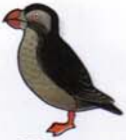
- **NEST** A burrow or a hollow in a rock crevice, lined with grass and feathers.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on W. and E. coasts of N. Pacific Ocean. Winters at sea in N. Pacific.



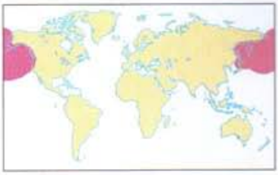
display tuft

sheath lost in winter

short tail



WINTER



DISTRIBUTION

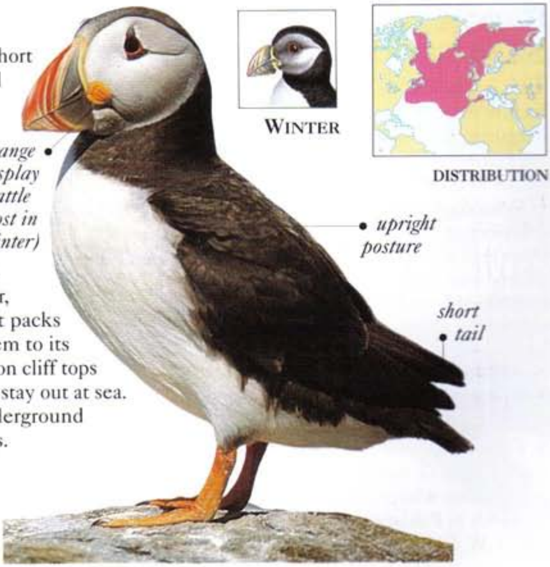
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family ALCIDAE	Species *Fratercula arctica*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

ATLANTIC PUFFIN

A stout bird with a large head and a short tail, the Atlantic Puffin has a comical appearance, with its masked eyes and massive bill. In breeding birds, the bill is covered with a red sheath, with yellow stripes and a gray triangle at the base. Pairs perform face-to-face bill-rapping displays in spring. The Atlantic Puffin flies strongly on fast-beating wings and swims underwater, chasing fish, particularly sand eels. It packs these crosswise in its bill to carry them to its young. Breeding colonies are located on cliff tops on coasts and islands. In winter, birds stay out at sea.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in an underground burrow, lined with grass and feathers.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds on W. and E. coasts of N. Atlantic Ocean. Winters on N. Atlantic Ocean.



orange display wattle (lost in winter)

upright posture

short tail

WINTER

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

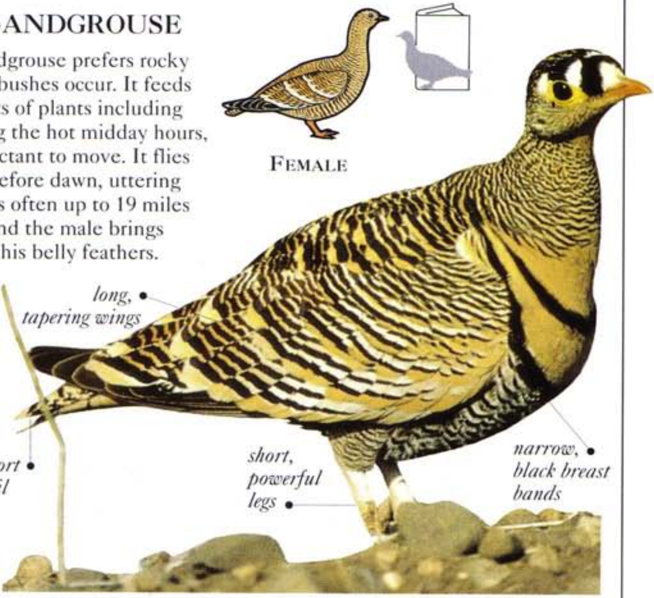
Family PTEROCLIDAE	Species *Pterocles lichtensteinii*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

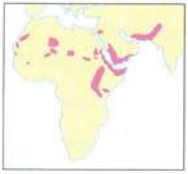
LICHTENSTEIN'S SANDGROUSE

A semidesert species, this sandgrouse prefers rocky and hilly country where some bushes occur. It feeds chiefly on seeds and other parts of plants including acacia trees and shrubs. During the hot midday hours, it rests in the shade and is reluctant to move. It flies to drink daily, late at dusk or before dawn, uttering soft, two-note calls. The nest is often up to 19 miles (30 km) from a water source, and the male brings water for the young, carried in his belly feathers.

- **NEST** A slight hollow on bare ground, without a lining.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas from Morocco through Africa to Arabia and Pakistan.

FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

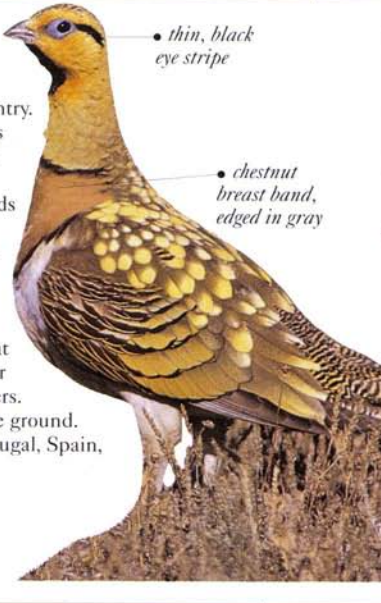
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

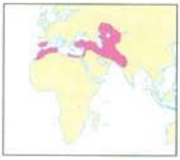
Family PTEROCLIDAE	Species *Pterocles alchata*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE

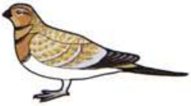
This is a sandgrouse of flat, dry country. Its fine pattern of colors camouflages it against sand, pebbles, and sparse vegetation. This species normally occurs in flocks and sometimes breeds in loose colonies. Birds are seen creeping or running on their rather short legs and feeding on seeds, shoots, and leaves. They fly considerable distances to water and, when drinking, sometimes float on the surface. Males carry water for the young in their soft breast feathers.

- **NEST** An unlined hollow on bare ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Portugal, Spain, S. France, N. Africa, Middle East, and C. Asia. C. Asian populations winter as far south as Pakistan and N.W. India.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

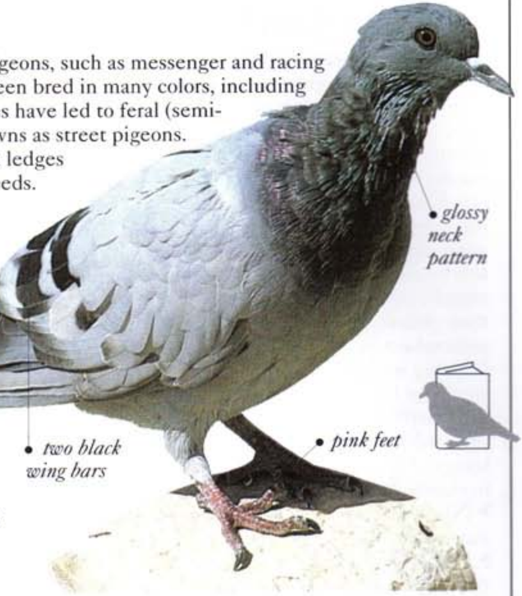
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

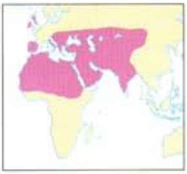
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Columba livia*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

ROCK DOVE

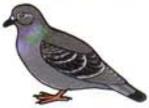
This is the wild ancestor of all domestic pigeons, such as messenger and racing birds, and of the fancy pigeons that have been bred in many colors, including pure white, and in various patterns. Escapes have led to feral (semi-wild) populations, most of which live in towns as street pigeons. Truly wild Rock Doves nest in colonies, on ledges in caves, and in cliff crevices, feeding on seeds.

- **NEST** A scanty platform of twigs and feathers, on a rock ledge or a building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. Europe, N. Africa, and through the Middle East to India. Feral birds have established populations throughout the world.





DISTRIBUTION



TYPICAL STREET PIGEON

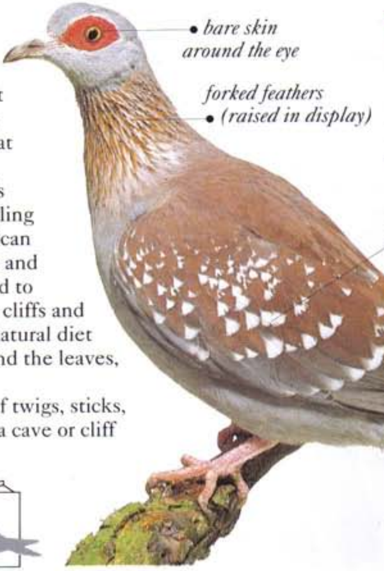
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

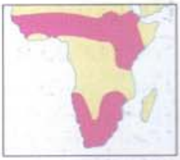
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Columba guinea*	Length 13¼ in (33 cm)

SPECKLED PIGEON

This pigeon resembles some street pigeons in general appearance, but has silvery-tipped neck feathers that are slightly forked. During mating displays, when the male inflates his neck, these stand out as a big, bristling ruff. The species is the natural African counterpart of the wild Rock Dove and has learned to live with humans and to use buildings as substitutes for the cliffs and gorges that it uses in the wild. Its natural diet consists of seeds including grain, and the leaves, shoots, and buds of green plants.

- **NEST** A flimsy platform made of twigs, sticks, and grass, situated on the ledge of a cave or cliff or on a building or bridge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two separate populations in nonforested parts of Africa south of the Sahara.


• bare skin around the eye
forked feathers • (raised in display)
triangular • wing spots
• long wings

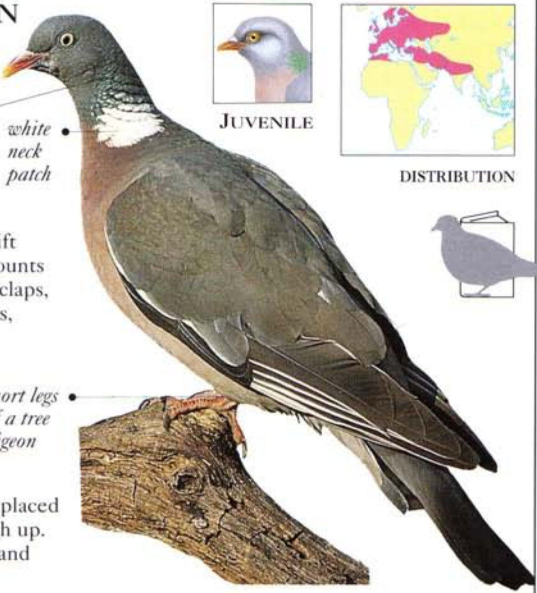


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family **COLUMBIDAE** | Species *Columba palumbus* | Length 16½ in (42 cm)

COMMON WOOD-PIGEON


iridescent patch
white neck patch
short legs of a tree pigeon

JUVENILE

DISTRIBUTION

Originally a woodland bird, this pigeon has learned to take advantage of gardens and farmland. It frequently advertises its presence from within the trees with a deep, throaty, cooing call. When seen in the open, it can be identified by its white wing patches and white neck patches. Flight is usually swift and direct and, in its display, the bird mounts steeply, often with a series of loud wing claps, then glides downward. Frightened flocks, too, make noisy wingbeats. The species is highly sociable and forms flocks when not breeding. Birds feed mainly on seeds, but they also eat berries, buds, and leaves. The short legs assist in clambering after acorns.

- **NEST** A shallow saucer of thin twigs, placed inconspicuously in a leafy tree, fairly high up.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Europe, Africa, and through the Middle East to N. India.

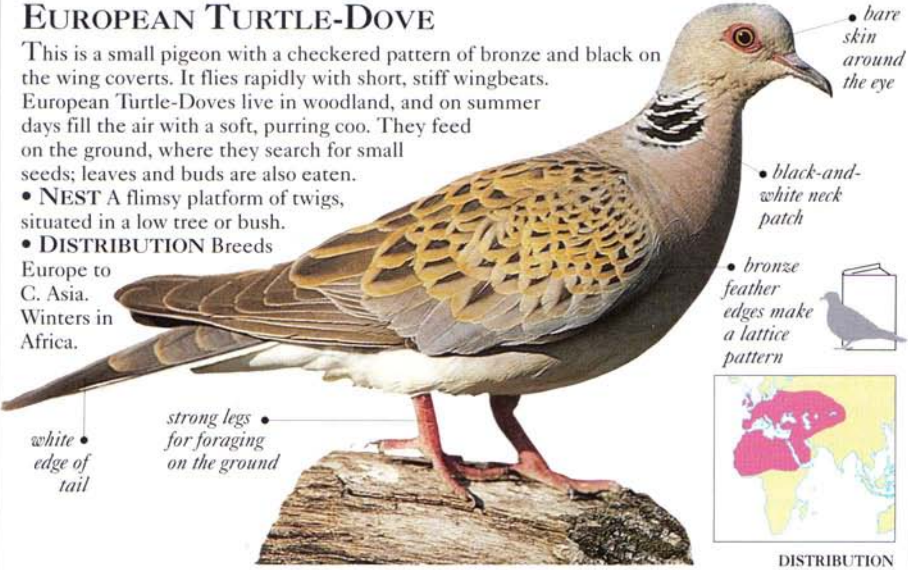
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

Family **COLUMBIDAE** | Species *Streptopelia turtur* | Length 11 in (28 cm)

EUROPEAN TURTLE-DOVE

This is a small pigeon with a checkered pattern of bronze and black on the wing coverts. It flies rapidly with short, stiff wingbeats. European Turtle-Doves live in woodland, and on summer days fill the air with a soft, purring coo. They feed on the ground, where they search for small seeds; leaves and buds are also eaten.

- **NEST** A flimsy platform of twigs, situated in a low tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds Europe to C. Asia. Winters in Africa.


bare skin around the eye
black-and-white neck patch
bronze feather edges make a lattice pattern
white edge of tail
strong legs for foraging on the ground

DISTRIBUTION

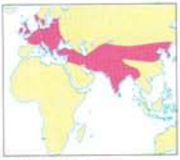
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Streptopelia decaocto*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

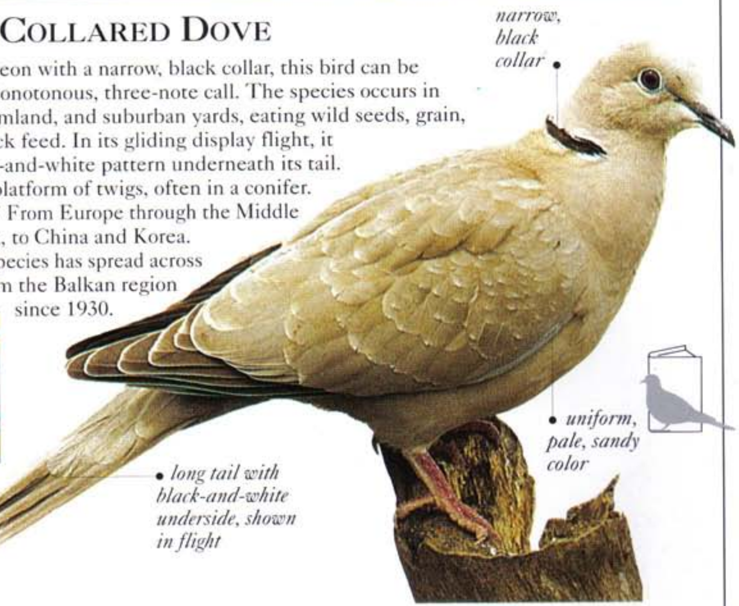
EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE

A plain-colored pigeon with a narrow, black collar, this bird can be recognized by its monotonous, three-note call. The species occurs in open woodland, farmland, and suburban yards, eating wild seeds, grain, berries, and livestock feed. In its gliding display flight, it shows off the black-and-white pattern underneath its tail.

- **NEST** A flimsy platform of twigs, often in a conifer.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe through the Middle East, S. and E. Asia, to China and Korea.
- **REMARK** This species has spread across most of Europe from the Balkan region since 1930.



DISTRIBUTION


narrow, black collar
uniform, pale, sandy color
long tail with black-and-white underside, shown in flight

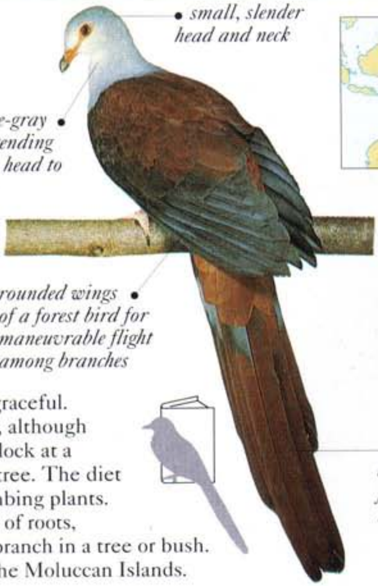
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

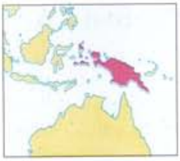
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Reinwardtoena reinwardtsi*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

GREAT CUCKOO-DOVE

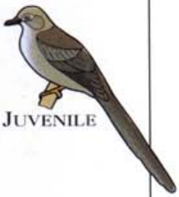
This tree-dwelling dove with a very long tail is a bird of tropical forest. It shares the name "cuckoo-dove" with a number of smaller, brown, long-tailed doves, some of which have calls like those of the Common Cuckoo (*see p. 188*). This species has two different calls: a repeated, three-note phrase, and a rapid, laughing sound. It lives mainly in the middle to higher levels of the forest foliage, and at the forest edge, while birds are sometimes seen on the ground. Flight is strong, powerful, and graceful. Great Cuckoo-Doves tend to be solitary, although birds sometimes gather in a temporary flock at a plentiful food source, such as a fruiting tree. The diet consists of fruit, taken from trees or climbing plants.

- **NEST** A shallow, saucerlike structure of roots, moss, ferns, and sticks, built on a level branch in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea and the Moluccan Islands.


small, slender head and neck
pale blue-gray color extending from the head to the belly
rounded wings of a forest bird for maneuvrable flight among branches
long, broad tail for fast, level flight



DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

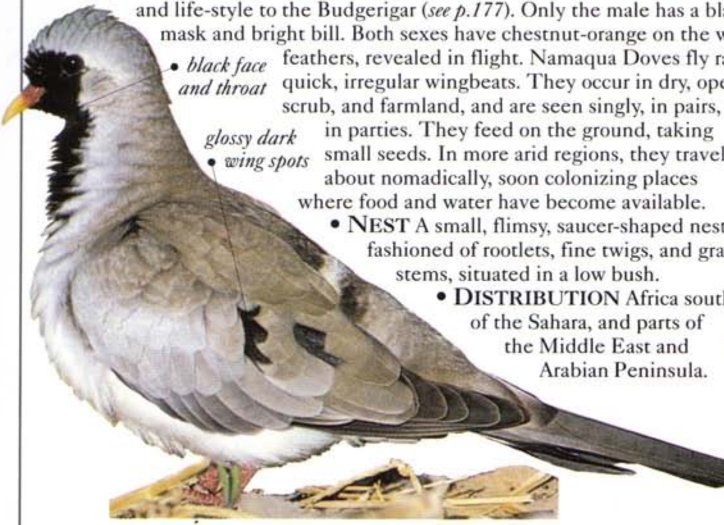
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Oena capensis*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

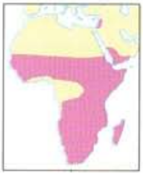
NAMAQUA DOVE

A tiny, ground-feeding dove with a long, tapering tail, this bird is similar in size, shape, and life-style to the Budgerigar (*see p.177*). Only the male has a black face mask and bright bill. Both sexes have chestnut-orange on the wing feathers, revealed in flight. Namaqua Doves fly rapidly, with quick, irregular wingbeats. They occur in dry, open country, scrub, and farmland, and are seen singly, in pairs, or in parties. They feed on the ground, taking small seeds. In more arid regions, they travel about nomadically, soon colonizing places where food and water have become available.

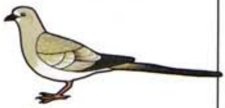
• **NEST** A small, flimsy, saucer-shaped nest fashioned of rootlets, fine twigs, and grass stems, situated in a low bush.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara, and parts of the Middle East and Arabian Peninsula.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

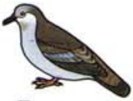
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Phaps elegans*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

BRUSH BRONZEWING

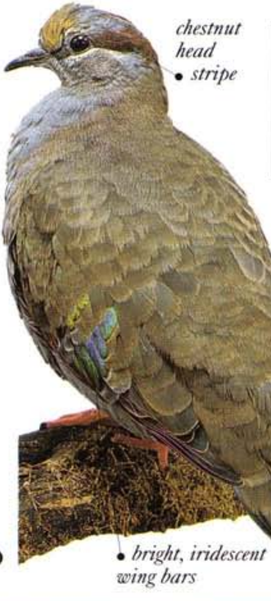
This stoutly built pigeon favors areas of low, thick vegetation that conceal its colors, including the double bar of iridescent plumage on its wings. These sparkle in a range of colors, from purple to bronze, giving the bird its name. It usually occurs in pairs, living unobtrusively among dense bushes and low trees, particularly in coastal heathland, or in the undergrowth of open woodland. The birds feed on the ground, mainly taking seeds, and sometimes venture into fields adjoining their normal habitat to take grain. They are cautious when visiting water, coming to drink quietly after dusk and before dawn. Their call is a subdued, mournful cooing.

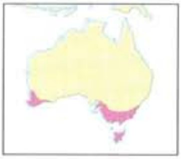
• **NEST** A substantial platform of twigs and stems, located in a small tree, thick shrub, or occasionally on the ground in a sheltered site.

• **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. and S.E. Australia, including Tasmania.



FEMALE



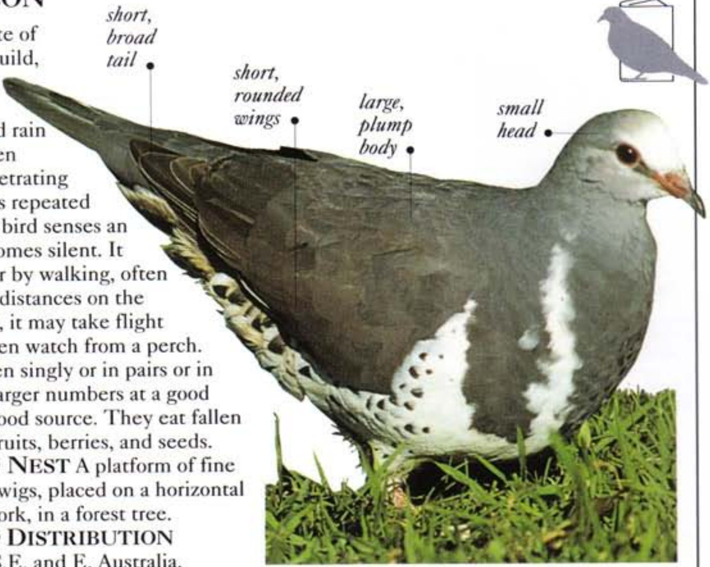


DISTRIBUTION

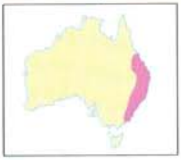
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

WONGA PIGEON



A secretive bird in spite of its size and powerful build, the Wonga Pigeon lives on the ground in deciduous forest and rain forest. Here, it can often be detected by its penetrating call note. This sound is repeated continuously until the bird senses an approach, when it becomes silent. It normally avoids danger by walking, often covering considerable distances on the forest floor. Otherwise, it may take flight for a short distance, then watch from a perch. Wonga Pigeons are seen singly or in pairs or in larger numbers at a good food source. They eat fallen fruits, berries, and seeds.



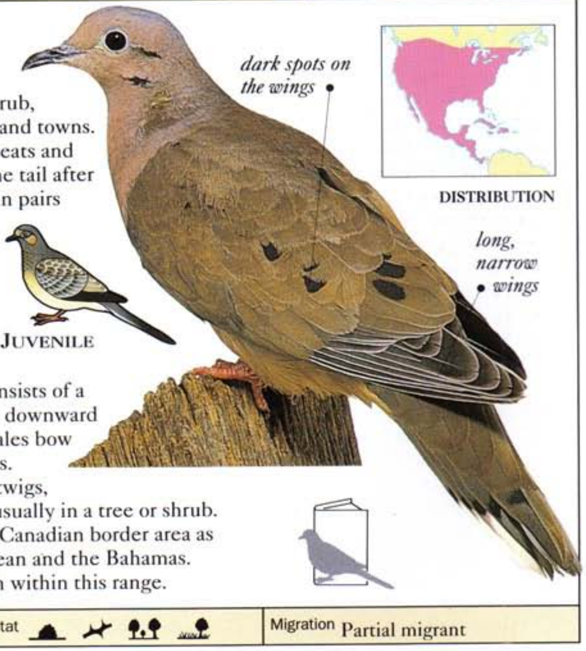
DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A platform of fine twigs, placed on a horizontal fork, in a forest tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. and E. Australia.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Zenaida macroura*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

MOURNING DOVE



DISTRIBUTION

Common in a wide variety of habitats, this bird is found in arid scrub, open woodland, farmland, gardens, and towns. It flies rapidly with whistling wingbeats and has a characteristic upward flip of the tail after landing. Mourning Doves are seen in pairs or small, loose groups. When not breeding, they are seen in larger groups at feeding sites or roosts. The call is a mournful-sounding series of coos. Birds feed on the ground, chiefly taking small seeds, and also grain and green shoots. The male's display flight consists of a noisy, flapping ascent followed by a downward glide. On the ground, displaying males bow to the females with puffed-up necks.

JUVENILE

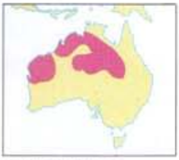
- **NEST** A scanty platform of thin twigs, sometimes lined with finer stems, usually in a tree or shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From the US–Canadian border area as far south as Panama, the N. Caribbean and the Bahamas. Northern populations migrate south within this range.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ⛰ 🌿 🌳🌳 🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Petrophassa plumifera*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

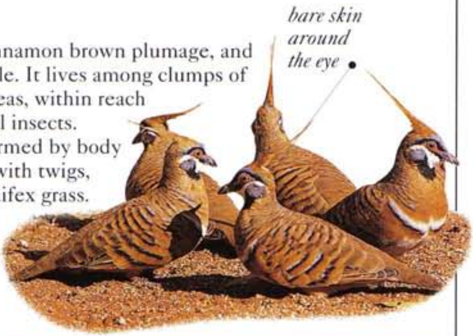
SPINIFEX PIGEON

With its upright posture, short wings and tail, cinnamon brown plumage, and thin, erect crest, this pigeon is readily recognizable. It lives among clumps of prickly spinifex grass in semidesert and desert areas, within reach or water. Its diet consists of seeds, with occasional insects.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A slight hollow formed by body pressure, sometimes lined with twigs, often under a clump of spinifex grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Drier areas of Australia north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

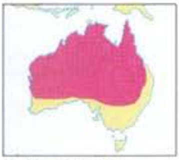


Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Geopelia cuneata*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

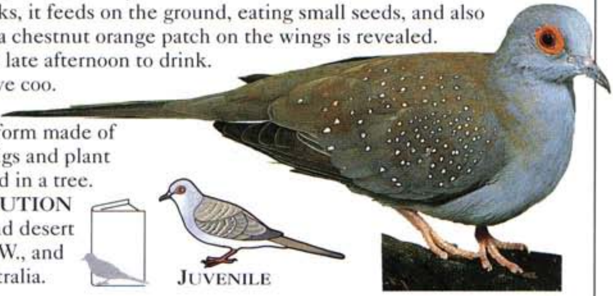
DIAMOND DOVE

A tiny dove with a long, white-edged tail, this species occurs in scrub and bushes. Usually seen in pairs or small flocks, it feeds on the ground, eating small seeds, and also taking leaves and buds. In flight, a chestnut orange patch on the wings is revealed. Birds often visit waterholes in the late afternoon to drink. The call is a high pitched, plaintive coo.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A small platform made of very fine twigs and plant stems, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Semi-arid and desert areas of N., W., and interior Australia.



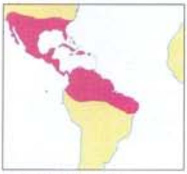
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Columbina passerina*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

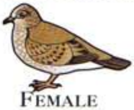
COMMON GROUND-DOVE

This stocky species is often seen in pairs or small groups, walking on the ground and feeding on fallen seeds. In flight, a chestnut color in the wings is revealed.

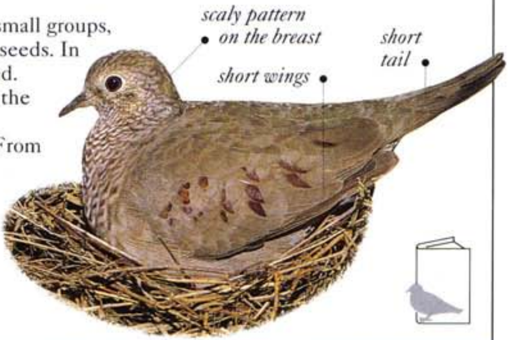
- **NEST** A loose platform of twigs, either on the ground or in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. North America to N. South America.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE



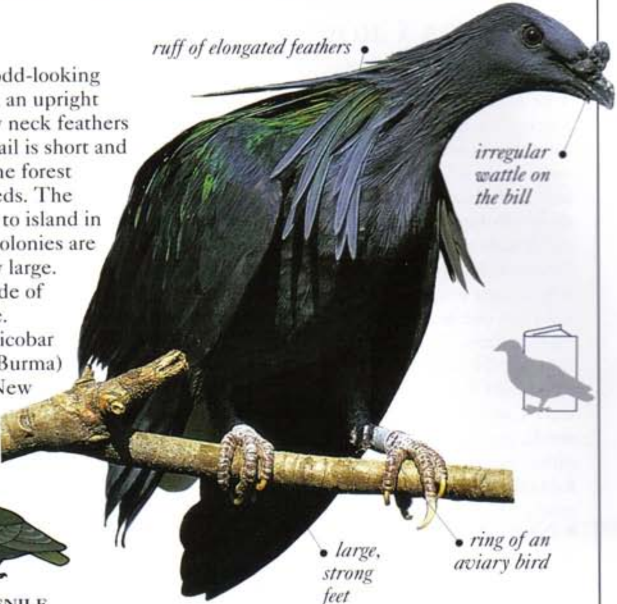
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

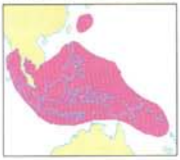
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Caloenas nicobarica*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

NICOBAR PIGEON

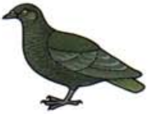
An island-dwelling pigeon, this odd-looking species has a thin head and neck, an upright wattle on the bill, and long, spiky neck feathers that can be raised in a ruff. The tail is short and white. Nicobar Pigeons feed in the forest undergrowth, taking fruit and seeds. The birds fly nomadically from island to island in search of feeding sites. Nesting colonies are close packed and sometimes very large.

- **NEST** An untidy structure made of twigs, either in a bush or in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From the Nicobar Islands (in the Indian Ocean off Burma) through S.E. Asia to Indonesia, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

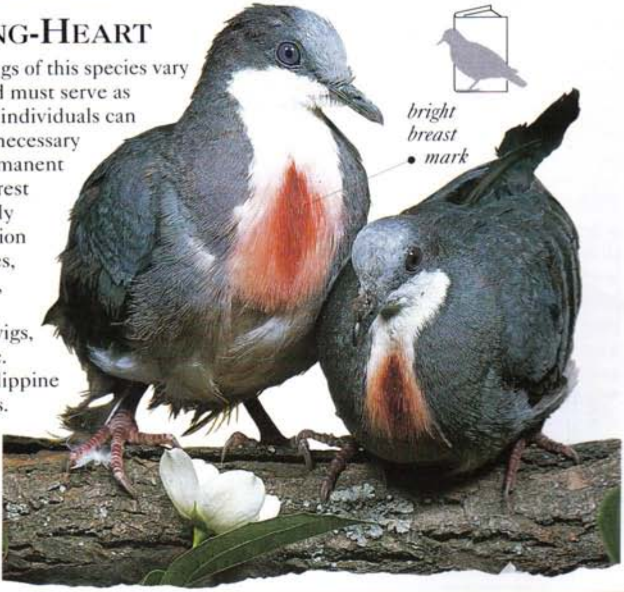
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Nomadic

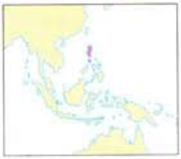
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Gallicolumba luzonica*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

LUZON BLEEDING-HEART

The bloodlike breast markings of this species vary from one bird to another and must serve as recognition marks by which individuals can identify each other. This is necessary because they live in the permanent semi-darkness of the rain forest floor. Here they move quietly among low, shrubby vegetation in search of seeds and berries, and also taking grubs, snails, and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A scanty nest of twigs, placed in a shrub or low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Philippine Islands.





DISTRIBUTION

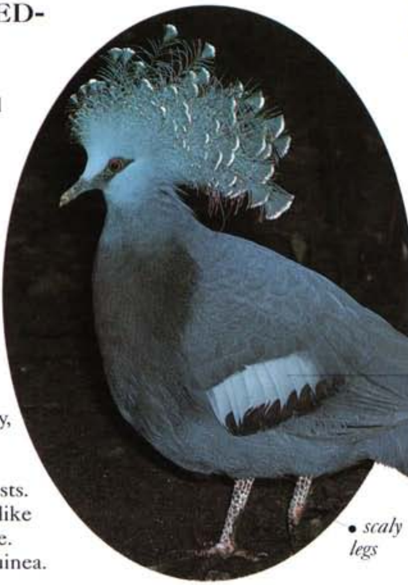
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

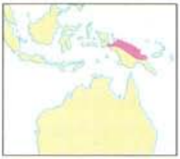
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Goura victoria*	Length 30 in (75 cm)

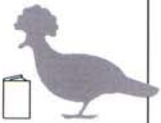
VICTORIA CROWNED-PIGEON

The lacy crest of this enormous pigeon is made up of fan-shaped tufts and is permanently raised over the head. Displaying males utter soft, booming calls as they show off their crests and tails to the females. Both sexes perform threat or defense displays in which they wag their tails and hold out one or both wings, like banners. This ground-feeding species lives on the rain forest floor, walking around slowly and taking fallen fruits, seeds, and berries. It flies heavily, either to escape danger or to ascend into the branches of the trees, where it also roosts and nests.

- **NEST** A large, solid, platformlike mass of stems and twigs, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. New Guinea.




DISTRIBUTION



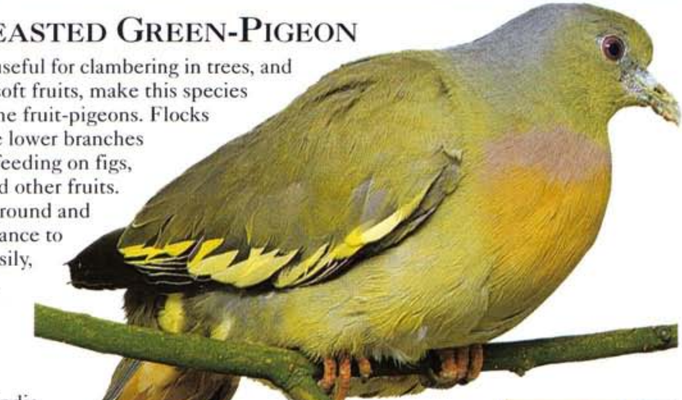
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

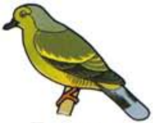
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Treron bicincta*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

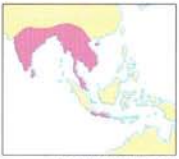
ORANGE-BREASTED GREEN-PIGEON

Strong legs and feet, useful for clambering in trees, and a stout bill for eating soft fruits, make this species a typical example of the fruit-pigeons. Flocks are usually seen in the lower branches of trees or in bushes, feeding on figs, wild dates, berries, and other fruits. Birds rarely visit the ground and when they do, for instance to drink, they walk clumsily, with their tails raised.

- **NEST** A flimsy platform of twigs in a small tree, close to open space.
- **DISTRIBUTION** India and parts of S.E. Asia.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

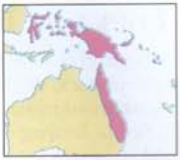
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Ptilinopus superbus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

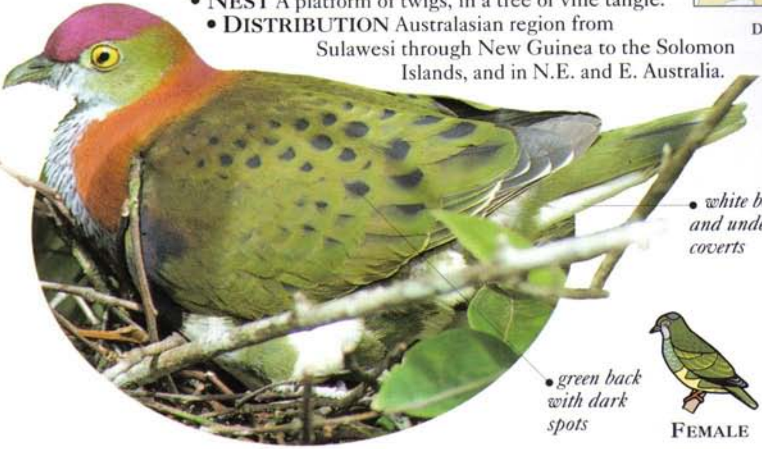
SUPERB FRUIT-DOVE

The vivid plumage of this species provides surprisingly good camouflage among the fruit and foliage of sun-dappled forests. It feeds in forest trees that produce small, oil-rich fruits. Birds live in pairs or alone, although large groups sometimes gather temporarily at a plentiful food source.

- **NEST** A platform of twigs, in a tree or vine tangle.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australasian region from Sulawesi through New Guinea to the Solomon Islands, and in N.E. and E. Australia.



DISTRIBUTION



white belly and undertail coverts
green back with dark spots
FEMALE

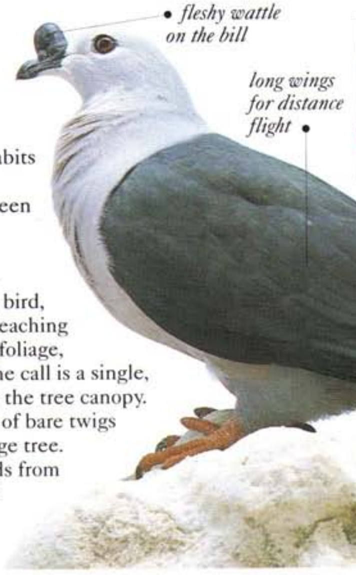
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

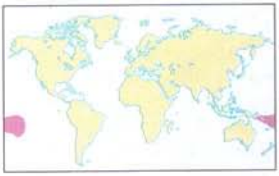
Family COLUMBIDAE	Species *Ducula pacifica*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

PACIFIC-IMPERIAL PIGEON

This is a large and subtly colored fruit dove that inhabits small, wooded islands and atolls. Flocks wander between islands in search of fruit. They are capable of long sea crossings. The Pacific-Imperial Pigeon is an agile bird, clambering, hanging, and reaching for food among the higher foliage, taking fruit and berries. The call is a single, growling note from high in the tree canopy.

- **NEST** A platform made of bare twigs and placed high up in a large tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Islands from N.E. New Guinea through Tonga, Fiji, and New Caledonia to islands of S.W. Pacific.





DISTRIBUTION

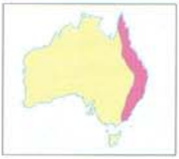
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family Columbidae	Species *Lopholaimus antarcticus*	Length 17¼ in (43 cm)

Topknot Pigeon

A large, gray, long-tailed pigeon, this tree-dwelling species has a swept-back, double crest that runs from forehead to nape. It is a sociable and nomadic bird that roams the treetops of rain forests in flocks, feeding on a wide variety of fruit. The short legs and strong feet are typical of a fruit-pigeon and enable the birds to cling acrobatically to the twigs when feeding, often hanging upside down with flapping wings to keep in place. Topknot Pigeons rarely come down to the ground even to drink, normally obtaining water from tree hollows or wet leaves or by hanging from a low twig over a stream or freshwater pool.

- **Nest** A flat platform made of twigs, and usually placed high in a tree.
- **Distribution** E. Australia.



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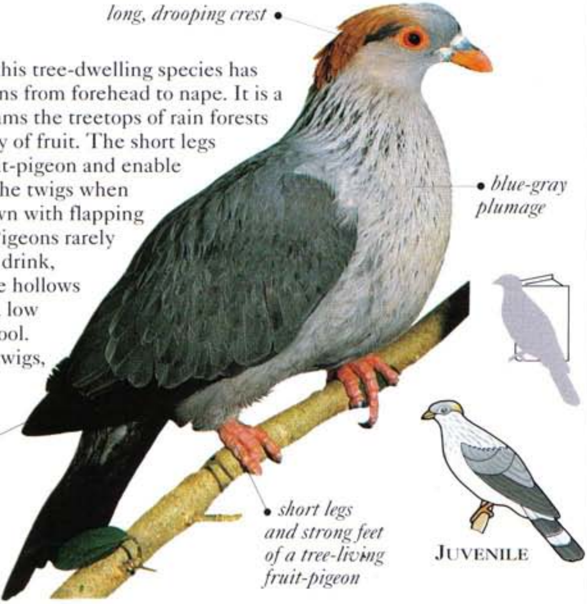


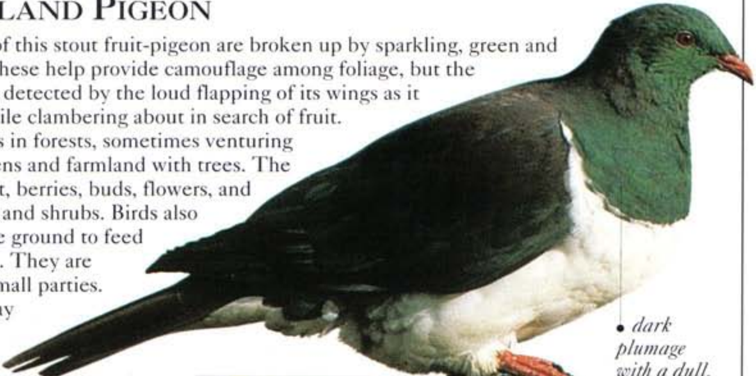
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Nomadic

Family Columbidae	Species *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*	Length 20 in (51 cm)

New Zealand Pigeon

The dull colors of this stout fruit-pigeon are broken up by sparkling, green and purple sheens. These help provide camouflage among foliage, but the bird can often be detected by the loud flapping of its wings as it steadies itself while clambering about in search of fruit. This species lives in forests, sometimes venturing into nearby gardens and farmland with trees. The diet includes fruit, berries, buds, flowers, and leaves from trees and shrubs. Birds also come down to the ground to feed from small plants. They are seen in pairs or small parties. The male's display flight consists of a rapid ascent, followed by a downward glide with spread wings and tail.

- **Nest** A flimsy structure of twigs, built on the branch of a tree.
- **Distribution** New Zealand.

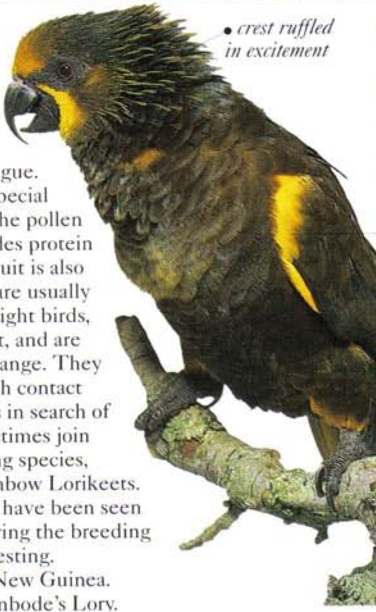


DISTRIBUTION

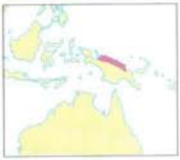
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Chalcopsitta duivenbodei*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

BROWN LORY



crest ruffled in excitement
yellow wing patch
short legs and strong feet of a tree dweller



DISTRIBUTION

One of the more soberly colored lories, this parrot feeds mainly on the flowers of forest trees. It visits large heads of tree blossoms, from which it laps nectar with its thin tongue. On the tip of the tongue there are special projections that gather up pollen. The pollen is important to the birds, as it provides protein in an otherwise sugary diet. Some fruit is also included in the diet. Brown Lories are usually seen in pairs, or in parties of six to eight birds, in the treetops of lowland rain forest, and are fairly common within their normal range. They utter shrill screeches and short, harsh contact calls as they move through the trees in search of food. When feeding, the birds sometimes join company with other blossom-feeding species, especially other parrots such as Rainbow Lorikeets.

- **NEST** Unknown; however, birds have been seen investigating holes high in trees during the breeding season, which may suggest cavity nesting.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forests of N. New Guinea.
- **REMARK** Also known as Duyvenbode's Lory.

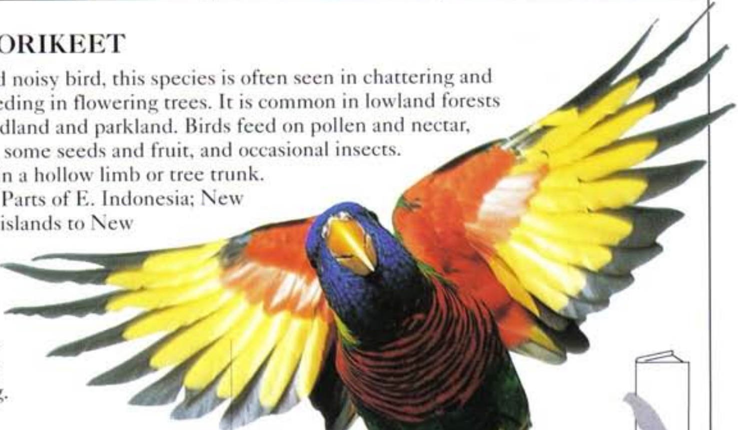
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

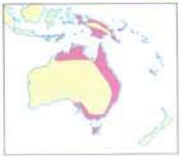
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Trichoglossus haematodus*	Length 10½ in (26 cm)

RAINBOW LORIKEET

A vividly colored and noisy bird, this species is often seen in chattering and screeching flocks, feeding in flowering trees. It is common in lowland forests and also in open woodland and parkland. Birds feed on pollen and nectar, also eating blossoms, some seeds and fruit, and occasional insects.

- **NEST** In a cavity in a hollow limb or tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of E. Indonesia; New Guinea; S.W. Pacific islands to New Caledonia; N., E., and S. Australia.
- **REMARK** Plumage varies over the range; some island forms lack the blue and red coloring.





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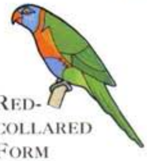


RED-COLLARED FORM

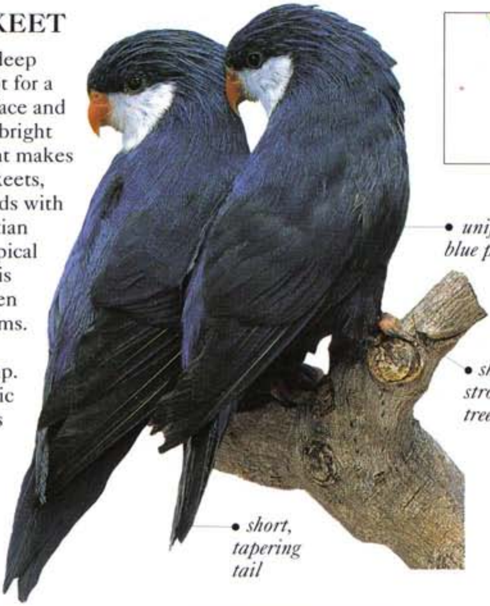
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

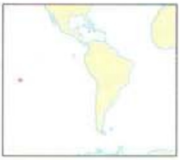
Family **Psittacidae**	Species *Vini peruviana*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

TAHITIAN LORIKEET

This rarely seen parrot has deep blue plumage all over, except for a white triangle on the lower face and throat. The bill and feet are bright red. This simple arrangement makes the bird unusual among lorikeets, which are generally vivid birds with complex patterns. The Tahitian Lorikeet lives on remote tropical islands, where its main food is probably the nectar and pollen of the flowers of coconut palms.

- **NEST** A hollow in a tree or a broken-off coconut stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Pacific Ocean: in the Society Islands (but no longer occurring in Tahiti), and introduced in the Cook Islands.
- **REMARK** Endangered as a result of the raiding of nests by an introduced predator, the Black Rat.


uniform, deep blue plumage
short legs and strong feet of a tree-dwelling bird
short, tapering tail


DISTRIBUTION

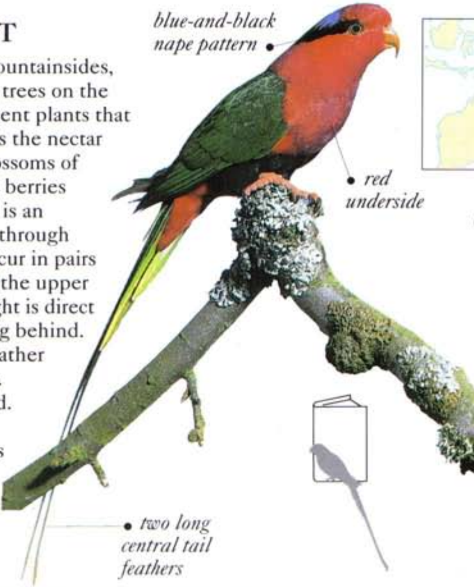
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

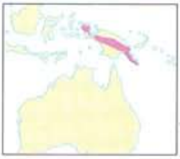
Family **Psittacidae**	Species *Charmosyna papou*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

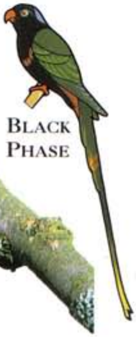
PAPUAN LORIKEET

Living in tropical forests on mountainsides, this colorful parrot feeds in the trees on the flowers of epiphytes (independent plants that grow on the branches). It drinks the nectar and also eats pollen and the blossoms of the epiphytes, as well as taking berries and seeds. Its long, curving tail is an encumbrance as it hops jerkily through the twigs. Papuan Lorikeets occur in pairs or small parties and are seen in the upper branches of the forest. Their flight is direct but not fast, with the tail trailing behind. Birds fly among the branches, rather than over the top of the canopy. Their calls are soft and subdued.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountains of New Guinea.
- **REMARK** There is also a black phase (*see p. 13*) of this species, in which much of the red is replaced by black.




DISTRIBUTION


BLACK PHASE

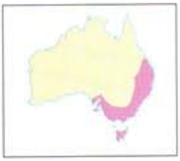
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Calyptorhynchus funereus*	Length 27 in (68 cm)

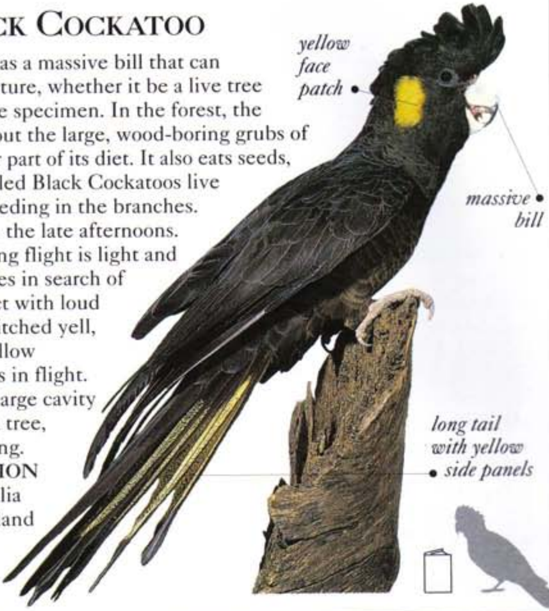
YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO

This large, forest-dwelling cockatoo has a massive bill that can destroy any unprotected wooden structure, whether it be a live tree or part of an aviary containing a captive specimen. In the forest, the cockatoo tears open branches to take out the large, wood-boring grubs of moths and beetles that form the greater part of its diet. It also eats seeds, nuts, berries, and blossoms. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos live mainly up in the trees, roosting and feeding in the branches. They descend to drink at dawn and in the late afternoons. In spite of their size, their slow, flapping flight is light and bouncy. The birds fly low over the trees in search of good feeding sites, maintaining contact with loud calls. Adults utter a drawn-out, high pitched yell, and juveniles a growling note. The yellow cheek and tail patches are conspicuous in flight.

- **NEST** A spacious hollow limb or a large cavity in the trunk of a tree, without any lining.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. and S. Australia from S. Queensland as far as Eyre Peninsula and Tasmania.



DISTRIBUTION



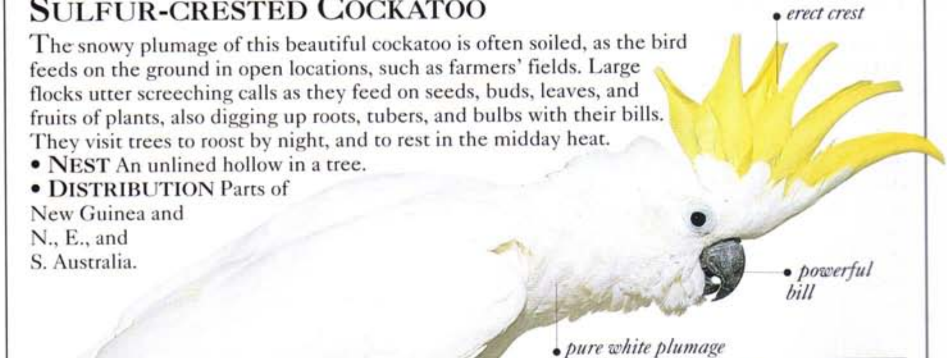
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

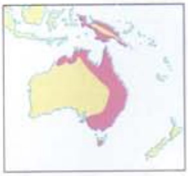
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Cacatua galerita*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

SULFUR-CRESTED COCKATOO

The snowy plumage of this beautiful cockatoo is often soiled, as the bird feeds on the ground in open locations, such as farmers' fields. Large flocks utter screeching calls as they feed on seeds, buds, leaves, and fruits of plants, also digging up roots, tubers, and bulbs with their bills. They visit trees to roost by night, and to rest in the midday heat.

- **NEST** An unlined hollow in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of New Guinea and N., E., and S. Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

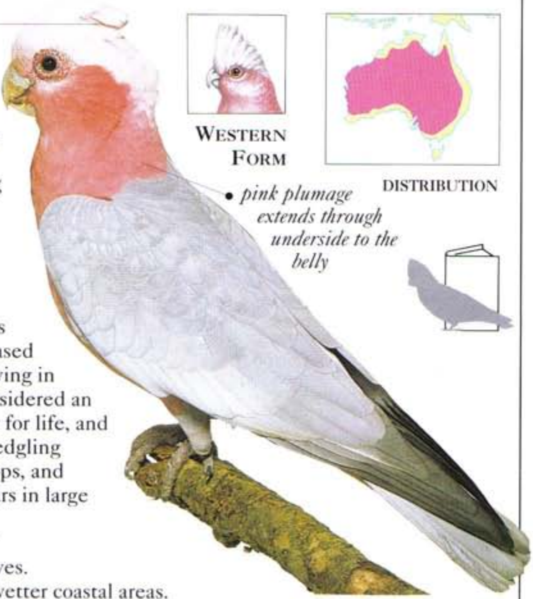
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family Psittacidae	Species *Eolophus roseicapillus*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

GALAH

A gray and pink cockatoo with a folding crest, the Galah is the commonest species of parrot in Australia. Large flocks maneuver in the air over open country or feed on the ground, uttering screeching contact calls. Their habitats also include thinly wooded areas, as well as lines of woodland alongside rivers. The Galah feeds on grain and other seeds, leaf buds, and insects. It also digs up roots, tubers, and invertebrates with its bill. The species thrives on cereal fields. Its numbers increased enormously with the spread of wheat growing in Australia. It has long since come to be considered an agricultural pest. Galah pairs stay together for life, and share the tasks of caring for the young. Fledgling Galahs live together in flocks in the treetops, and juveniles spend their first two or three years in large flocks that roam about the country.

- **NEST** A hollow in a branch or trunk of a tree, lined with a layer of eucalyptus leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, except for wetter coastal areas.


eastern form has a slightly pinker crest
pink plumage extends through underside to the belly

WESTERN FORM

DISTRIBUTION

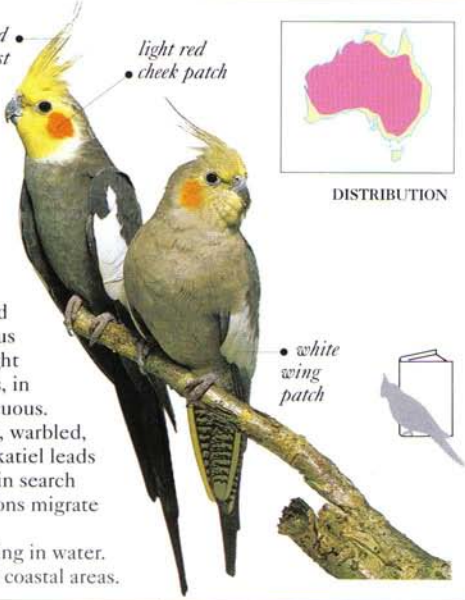
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family Psittacidae	Species *Nymphicus hollandicus*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

COCKATIEL

A strong-flying parrot of arid country, this species looks like a cockatoo but is more agile and active in its behavior. The Cockatiel occurs on open plains, sometimes with light woodland. Pairs or small flocks are seen feeding on the ground, camouflaged by their colors. They pick up fallen seeds of grasses, weeds, shrubs, and trees, as well as eating berries and visiting harvested fields to feed on leftovers of grain. If alarmed while feeding, the birds fly up, often settling in a dead tree, where they make themselves inconspicuous by perching lengthwise on larger branches. Flight is fast and direct, with strong, regular wingbeats, in which the large, white wing patches are conspicuous. Birds maintain contact during flight with a loud, warbled, double note. In some parts of its range the Cockatiel leads a nomadic life, traveling about in any direction in search of areas where food is available. Other populations migrate between summer and winter ranges.

- **NEST** A hollow in a tree, often near or standing in water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, except for wetter coastal areas.



DISTRIBUTION

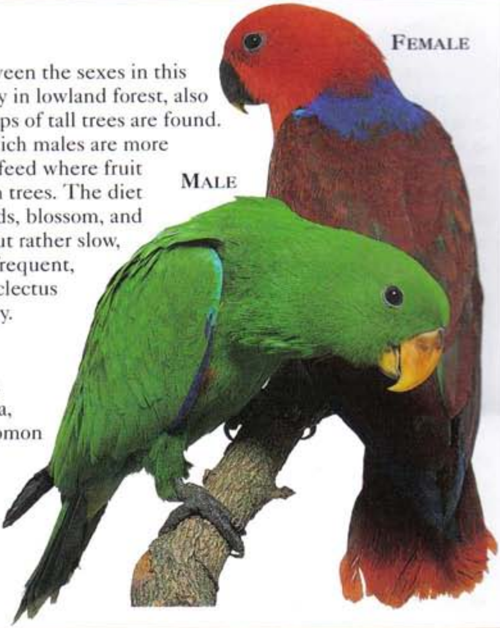
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant/nomadic

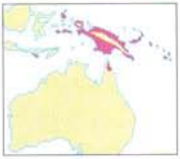
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Eclectus roratus*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

ECLECTUS PARROT

There is a startling difference in color between the sexes in this stoutly built parrot species. It is seen mainly in lowland forest, also occurring in more open country where groups of tall trees are found. Birds occur in pairs and small parties, in which males are more in evidence than females. Flocks gather to feed where fruit is ripe, and larger flocks are seen roosting in trees. The diet consists mainly of fruit, but nuts, seeds, buds, blossom, and nectar are also eaten. The flight is strong but rather slow, with deliberate, downward wingbeats and frequent, short glides. During longer journeys, the Eclectus Parrot often flies high above the tree canopy. The call is a raucous, screeching sound.

- **NEST** A hole in the trunk of a tall tree, often situated close to the forest edge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Islands of E. Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and extreme N.E. tip of Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

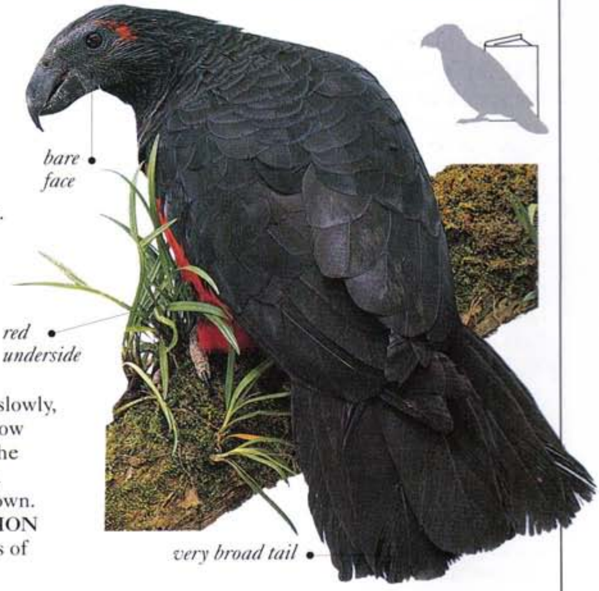
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

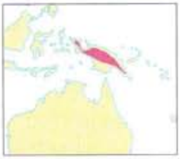
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Psittrichas fulgidus*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

VULTURINE PARROT

Bald-headedness in birds is usually associated with eating messy foods, and this parrot has a bare face that may possibly be connected with its mainly fruit diet. It eats softer fruits, particularly figs, as well as blossoms and probably sips nectar from flowers. Living in mountain forest, it sits for long periods on high, bare branches that project above the forest foliage. It tends to jump from twig to twig with a quick wing-flick, rather than using the bill to climb about. Birds screech noisily during flight. They fly strongly but slowly, with rapid, shallow wingbeats and the occasional glide.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Highland forests of New Guinea.





DISTRIBUTION

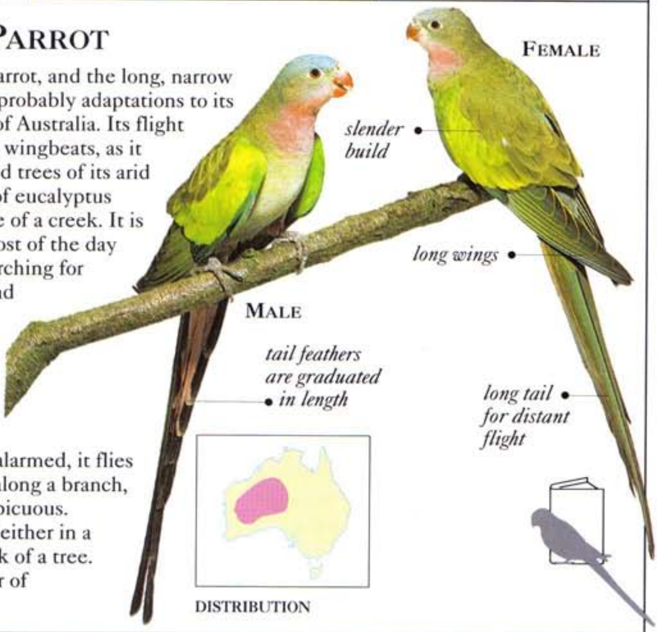
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Polytelis alexandrae*	Length 17½ in (45 cm)

ALEXANDRA'S PARROT

The slender build of this parrot, and the long, narrow wings and tapering tail, are probably adaptations to its nomadic life in the deserts of Australia. Its flight is undulating, with irregular wingbeats, as it moves between the scattered trees of its arid habitat or follows the lines of eucalyptus trees that mark the presence of a creek. It is also seen in acacia scrub. Most of the day is spent at ground level, searching for the small seeds of grasses and other plants that form its diet. Alexandra's Parrot also eats tree blossoms and mistletoe berries. A quiet bird, it has a soft twitter of alarm and a harsher, rattling call. When alarmed, it flies up and perches lengthwise along a branch, making its outline less conspicuous.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity, either in a hollow branch or in the trunk of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of W. and C. Australia.


FEMALE
slender build
long wings
MALE
tail feathers are graduated in length
long tail for distant flight

DISTRIBUTION

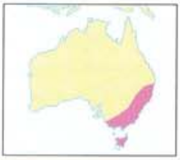
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Nomadic

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Platycercus eximius*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

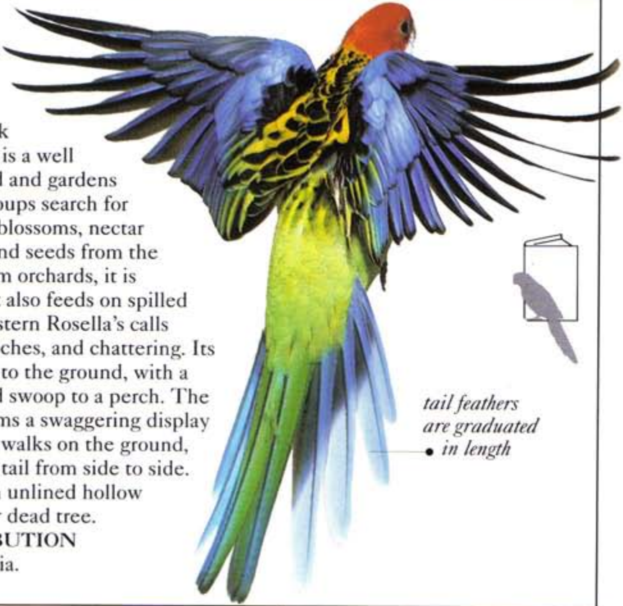
EASTERN ROSELLA

With its bright plumage in the primary colors, and scalelike black markings on the back, this parrot is a well known inhabitant of the farmland and gardens within its range. Pairs or small groups search for a variety of food, including fruit, blossoms, nectar from trees, berries from shrubs, and seeds from the ground. Because it takes fruit from orchards, it is considered an agricultural pest. It also feeds on spilled grain in harvested fields. The Eastern Rosella's calls include loud metallic notes, screeches, and chattering. Its flight is undulating, usually close to the ground, with a final upward swoop to a perch. The male performs a swaggering display in which he walks on the ground, wagging his tail from side to side.

- **NEST** An unlined hollow in a living or dead tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Australia.



DISTRIBUTION



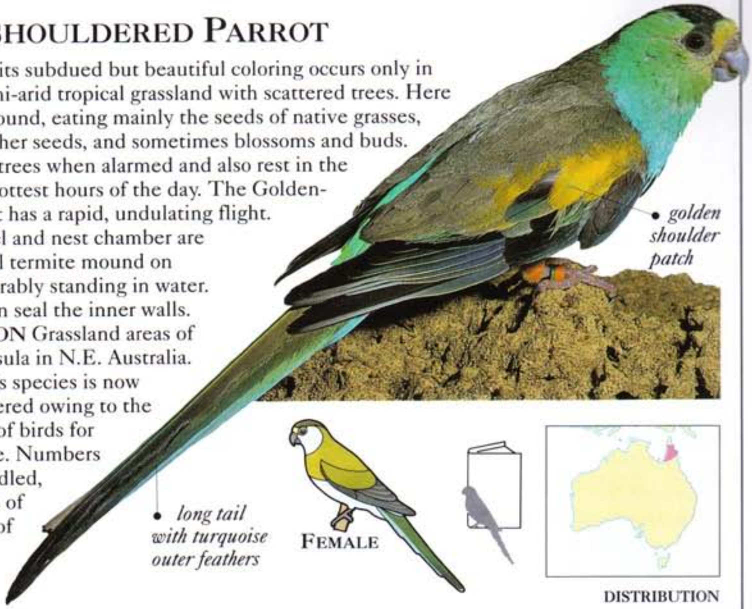
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Psephotus chrysopterygius*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

GOLDEN-SHOULDERED PARROT

This parrot with its subdued but beautiful coloring occurs only in small areas of semi-arid tropical grassland with scattered trees. Here it feeds on the ground, eating mainly the seeds of native grasses, but also taking other seeds, and sometimes blossoms and buds. Birds take to the trees when alarmed and also rest in the branches in the hottest hours of the day. The Golden-shouldered Parrot has a rapid, undulating flight.

- **NEST** A tunnel and nest chamber are excavated in a tall termite mound on the ground, preferably standing in water. The termites then seal the inner walls.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Grassland areas of Cape York Peninsula in N.E. Australia.
- **REMARK** This species is now seriously endangered owing to the illegal collection of birds for the live bird trade. Numbers had already dwindled, probably because of the introduction of grazing cattle, which ate the native grasses.



FEMALE

DISTRIBUTION

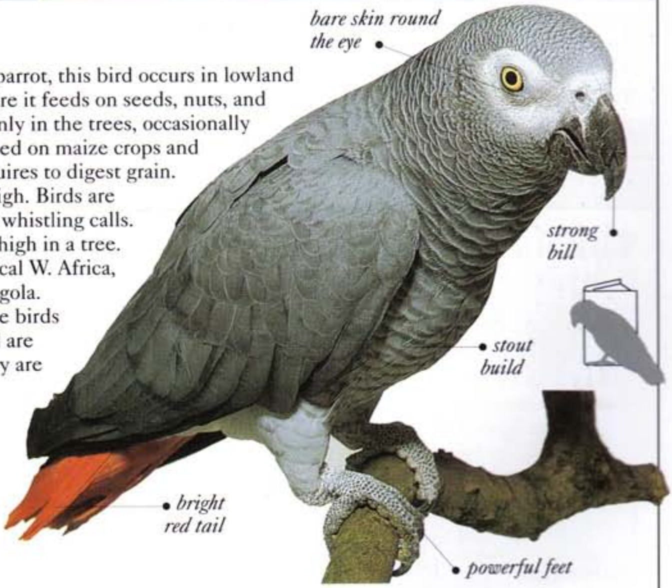
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

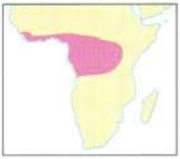
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Psittacus erithacus*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

GRAY PARROT

A stocky and short-tailed parrot, this bird occurs in lowland forest and mangroves, where it feeds on seeds, nuts, and oil palm fruits. It lives mainly in the trees, occasionally coming to the ground to feed on maize crops and to obtain grit, which it requires to digest grain. Flight is fast, direct, and high. Birds are noisy, with screeching and whistling calls.

- **NEST** An unlined hole high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical W. Africa, the Zaire basin, and N. Angola.
- **REMARK** Because these birds breed well in captivity and are easily taught to "talk," they are popular in the pet trade.





DISTRIBUTION

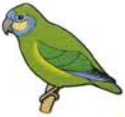
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

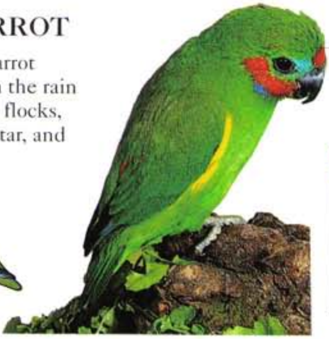
Family **PSITTACIDAE** | Species *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* | Length 5½ in (14 cm)

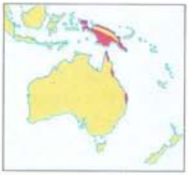
DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT

Despite its bright plumage, this little parrot is easily overlooked as it feeds quietly in the rain forest canopy. It forages in pairs or small flocks, searching for figs and berries, seeds, nectar, and the grubs of wood-boring insects. Its flight is fast and direct with short, shrill calls.

- **NEST** A hole bored by the birds in a rotten tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea and isolated areas in N.E. Australia.


FEMALE




DISTRIBUTION

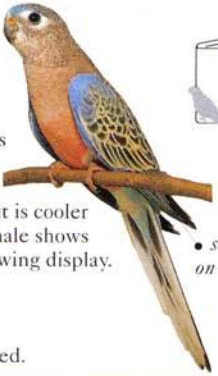
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

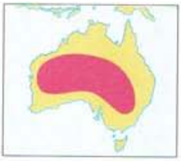
Family **PSITTACIDAE** | Species *Neophema bourkii* | Length 7½ in (19 cm)

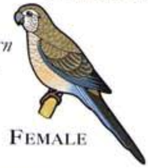
BOURKE'S PARROT

This delicately colored parrot is rarely seen in the wild. Pairs or small groups forage nomadically through dry acacia scrub, feeding on the seeds of grasses and herbaceous plants. Bourke's Parrot has large eyes that are adapted to poor light. It drinks at waterholes after sunset or before dawn, when it is cooler and there is less danger from predators. The male shows off his blue underwings and flanks in a raised-wing display.

- **NEST** An unlined hole in a tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of Australia.
- **REMARK** This species breeds well in captivity, and color varieties have been produced.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

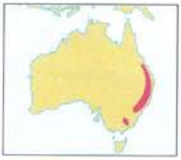
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 🌿 | Migration Non-migrant/nomadic

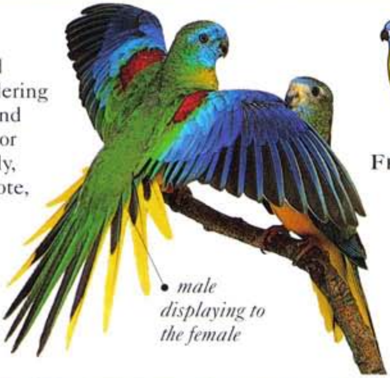
Family **PSITTACIDAE** | Species *Neophema pulchella* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

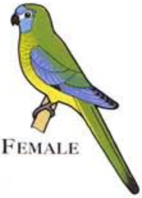
TURQUOISE PARROT

Small flocks of this beautiful species feed quietly on the ground in grassy areas bordering dry woodland, taking small seeds, buds, and leaves. When alarmed, they fly into trees or bushes. The birds fly swiftly but erratically, uttering soft, two-note, whistling calls.

- **NEST** A hollow in a tree stump, fencepost, or log on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Australia.


DISTRIBUTION




FEMALE

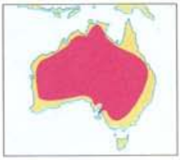
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 🌳 ⛰ | Migration Non-migrant

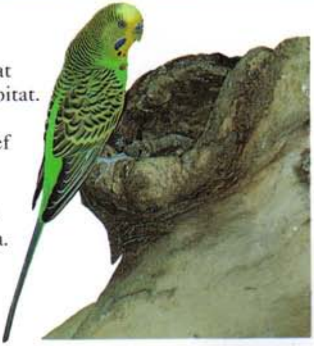
Family PSITTACIDAE
Species *Melopsittacus undulatus*
Length 7 in (18 cm)

BUDGERIGAR

In the wild this familiar small parrot lives in nomadic flocks that search for seeding grasses and other vegetation in their arid habitat. Flight is strong and rapid. Flocks rarely stay long in one place, but the birds settle and breed in holes available during the brief period of plant growth that follows rain.

- **NEST** An unlined hole or hollow in a tree trunk, a rotten stump, or a fencepost.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia.
- **REMARK** Many color variations have been bred in captivity, but the wild bird is always green and yellow.


DISTRIBUTION



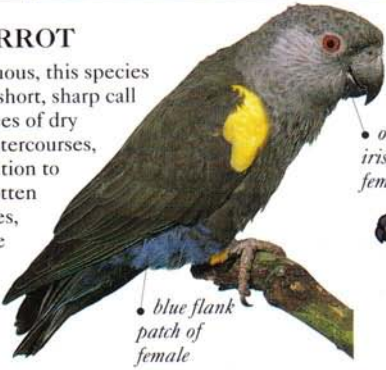
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat
Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

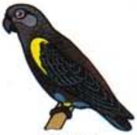
Family PSITTACIDAE
Species *Poicephalus rueppellii*
Length 9 in (23 cm)

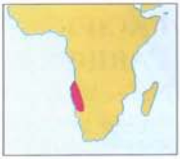
RUEPPELL'S PARROT

Uncommon and inconspicuous, this species betrays its presence with a short, sharp call note. Found in the large trees of dry forest, particularly along watercourses, it feeds at all levels. In addition to prizing insect grubs from rotten wood, it also feeds on berries, green shoots, seeds, and the pods of melon and acacia.

- **NEST** An unlined hole in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. Africa.




MALE


DISTRIBUTION

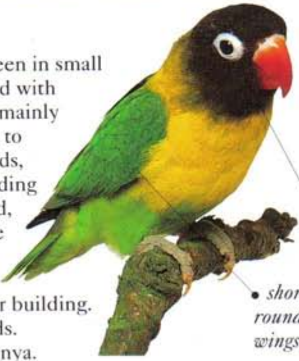
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Non-migrant

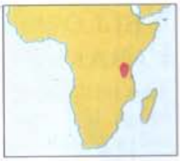
Family PSITTACIDAE
Species *Agapornis personatus*
Length 5¾ in (14.5 cm)

MASKED LOVEBIRD

This short-tailed little parrot is usually seen in small flocks. It inhabits seasonally arid grassland with scattered trees and shrubs. Here it feeds mainly on seeds, which it extracts while clinging to plant stems, also taking berries, green buds, and leaves. Flight is fast and direct. Breeding in loose colonies, pairs form a strong bond, perching close together and preening one another (hence the name lovebird).

- **NEST** A bulky, domed nest of thin twigs and bark strips, in a hole in a tree or building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tanzanian Highlands. Introduced in coastal Tanzania and S. Kenya.




DISTRIBUTION

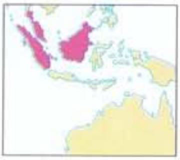
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat
Migration Non-migrant

Family **PSITTACIDAE**	Species *Loriculus galgulus*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

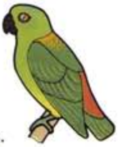
BLUE-CROWNED HANGING PARROT

This tiny parrot of open woodland occurs in small, fast-flying flocks. It uses its brush-tipped tongue to gather nectar and also eats flowers, fruit, and seeds, sometimes (though rarely) hanging upside down. Hanging parrots, like some lovebird species, carry nesting material tucked into their rump feathers.

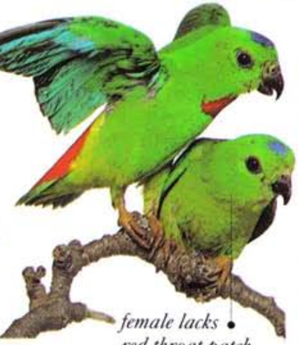
- **NEST** Tree hole lined with leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE



female lacks red throat patch

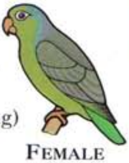
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family **PSITTACIDAE**	Species *Forpus coelestis*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

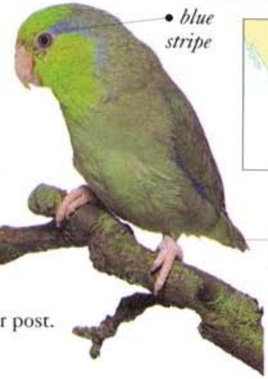
PACIFIC PARROTLET

Not easily seen among the foliage, this tiny, green-faced parrot inhabits secondary forest (regrown after felling) and scrub. Here it feeds mainly on small seeds taken from grasses and other low plants, and on berries from bushes. It usually occurs in flocks or family parties, uttering noisy, chattering calls. Its flight is fast and erratic.

- **NEST** An unlined hole in a branch, tree trunk, or post.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. Ecuador and N.W. Peru.

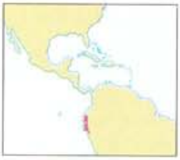


FEMALE



blue stripe

short tail



DISTRIBUTION

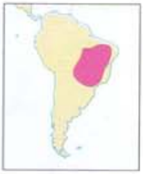
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family **PSITTACIDAE**	Species *Brotogeris chiriri*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

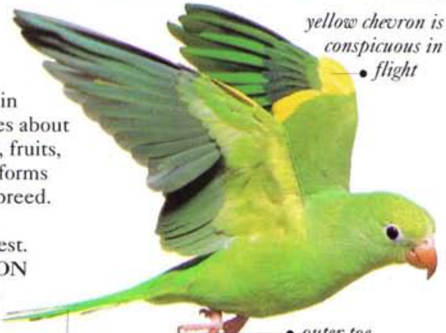
YELLOW-CHEVRONED PARAKEET

This small parrot is hard to detect when resting in foliage. It is more easily noticeable when it moves about and calls shrilly in its forest habitat. It eats seeds, fruits, flowers, and shoots. At times, it forms large flocks, but pairs scatter to breed.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree trunk, hollow branch, or tree-termite nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From C. Brazil to N. Argentina and Paraguay.



DISTRIBUTION



yellow chevron is conspicuous in flight

tapering tail

outer toe turns backward

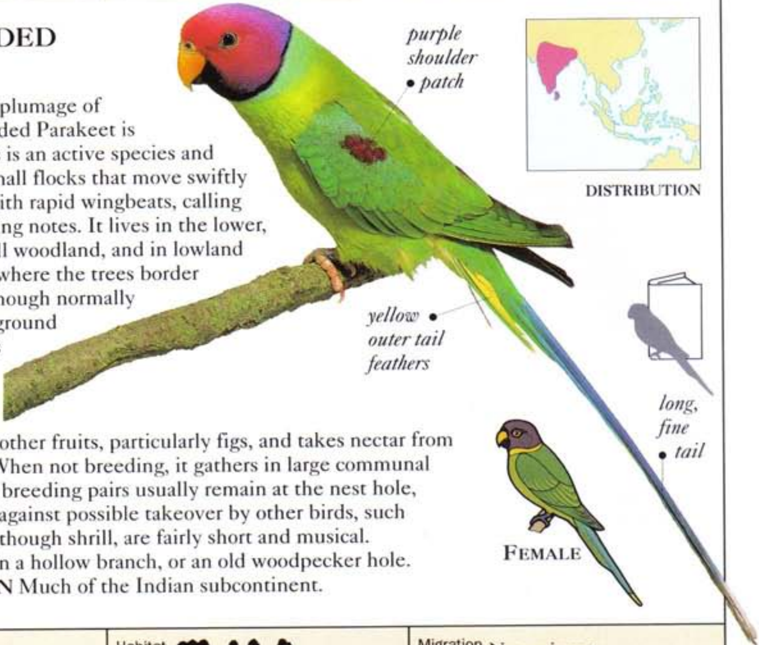
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Psittacula cyanocephala*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET

The glowing head plumage of the male Plum-headed Parakeet is unmistakable. This is an active species and usually occurs in small flocks that move swiftly over the treetops with rapid wingbeats, calling with shrill, screeching notes. It lives in the lower, warmer zones of hill woodland, and in lowland forest, particularly where the trees border cultivated areas. Though normally wary of feeding at ground level, it often feeds on cultivated grain and rice. It also eats other seeds, berries, and other fruits, particularly figs, and takes nectar from blossoming trees. When not breeding, it gathers in large communal roosts at night, but breeding pairs usually remain at the nest hole, guarding it closely against possible takeover by other birds, such as mynas. Its calls, though shrill, are fairly short and musical.

- **NEST** A cavity in a hollow branch, or an old woodpecker hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of the Indian subcontinent.



DISTRIBUTION

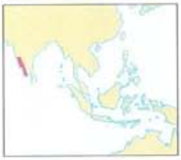
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Psittacula columboides*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

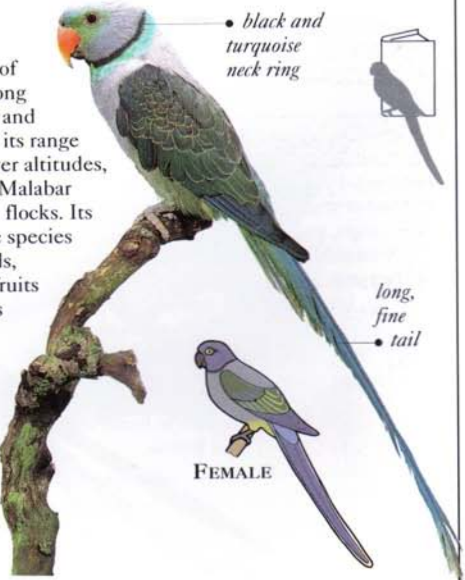
MALABAR PARAKEET

The subtle combination of hues in the plumage of this long-tailed parakeet provide camouflage among leaves and branches. It lives mainly in evergreen and broadleaved hill woodland, but on the borders of its range it is sometimes seen in the drier woodland of lower altitudes, in the company of Plum-headed Parakeets. The Malabar Parakeet usually travels in family parties or small flocks. Its flight is rapid and level, with fast wingbeats. The species gets most of its food from forest trees, taking buds, nectar and pollen from tree blossoms, nuts, and fruits such as figs and berries. Where the forest borders on to farmland, Malabar Parakeets often take the opportunity to feed on crops such as grain, vetches, and orchard fruits. This is a noisy species with a shrill, harsh, two-syllable call.

- **NEST** An unlined hole in the trunk or branch of a tall tree, situated high above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. India.



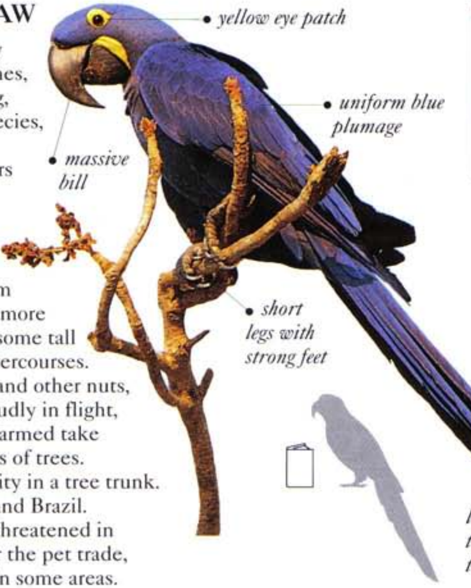
DISTRIBUTION

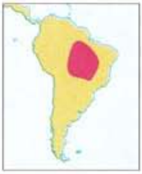


Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*	Length 39 in (100 cm)

HYACINTH MACAW





DISTRIBUTION

Deep blue plumage offset by the yellow chin and eye patches, large size, a long tail, and long, narrow wings identify this species, which is the largest of all the parrots. It almost always occurs in pairs, which fly closely together. Groups of pairs or small family parties form small flocks. Hyacinth Macaws are often seen in palm groves. They are also seen in more open areas and swamps with some tall trees, and in forests along watercourses. The diet includes palm nuts and other nuts, seeds, and fruits. Birds call loudly in flight, with a harsh screech, and if alarmed take refuge in the highest branches of trees.

- **NEST** A large, unlined cavity in a tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Bolivia and Brazil.
- **REMARK** This species is threatened in the wild owing to trapping for the pet trade, but it is still locally common in some areas.

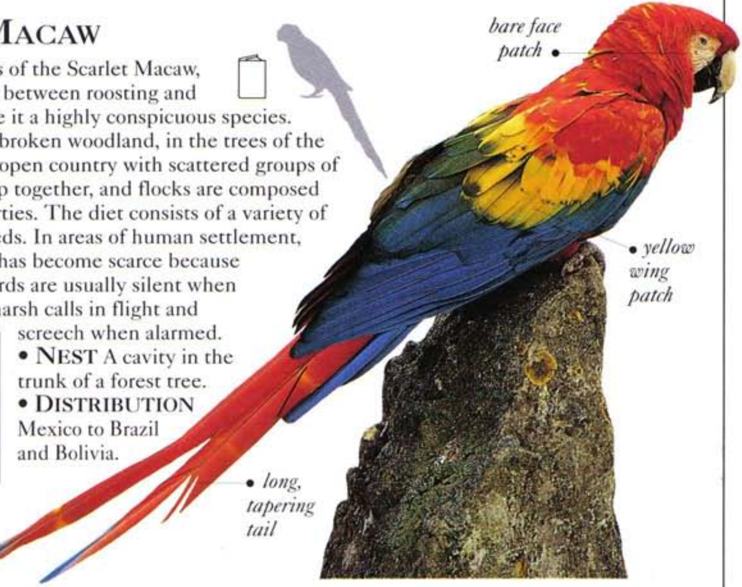
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

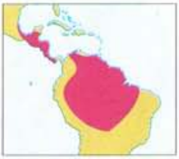
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Ara macao*	Length 34 in (85 cm)

SCARLET MACAW

The brilliant colors of the Scarlet Macaw, and its daily flights between roosting and feeding areas, make it a highly conspicuous species. It occurs widely in broken woodland, in the trees of the forest edge, and in open country with scattered groups of tall trees. Pairs keep together, and flocks are composed of pairs or small parties. The diet consists of a variety of fruits, nuts, and seeds. In areas of human settlement, the Scarlet Macaw has become scarce because of trapping. The birds are usually silent when feeding, but utter harsh calls in flight and screech when alarmed.

- **NEST** A cavity in the trunk of a forest tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mexico to Brazil and Bolivia.





DISTRIBUTION

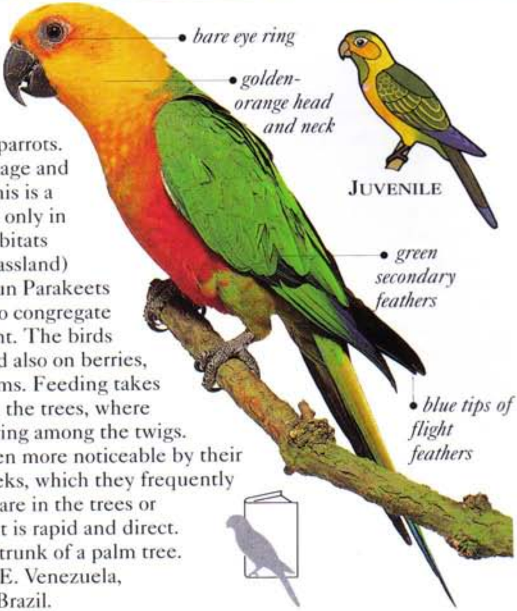
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

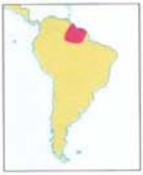
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Aratinga solstitialis*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

SUN PARAKEET

With its vivid, golden-orange head and neck, green wings, and scarlet belly, the Sun Parakeet is the most eye-catching of the smaller South American parrots. Juveniles have more green in their plumage and stand out less among the tree foliage. This is a relatively uncommon species, numerous only in certain areas in hot, lowland country. Habitats include open forest, savanna (tropical grassland) with scattered trees, and palm groves. Sun Parakeets usually occur in small parties, but tend to congregate in larger numbers where food is abundant. The birds feed on larger fruits, particularly figs, and also on berries, nuts, seeds, and probably on tree blossoms. Feeding takes place almost entirely in the trees, where flocks are seen clambering among the twigs. The birds are made even more noticeable by their shrill, two-syllable shrieks, which they frequently utter either when they are in the trees or during flight. The flight is rapid and direct.

- **NEST** A hole in the trunk of a palm tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Venezuela, the Guianas, and N.E. Brazil.





DISTRIBUTION

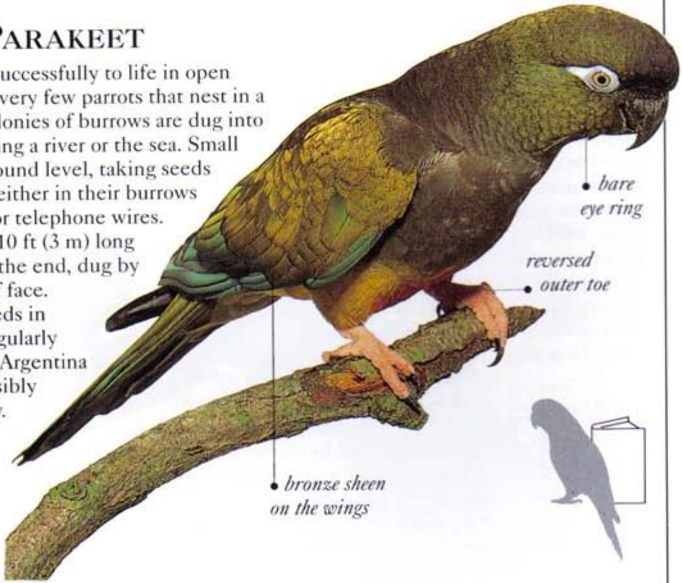
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

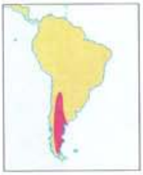
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Cyanoliseus patagonus*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

PATAGONIAN PARAKEET

This parrot has adapted successfully to life in open grassland. It is one of the very few parrots that nest in a burrow in the ground. Colonies of burrows are dug into cliff faces, often overlooking a river or the sea. Small parties feed on or near ground level, taking seeds and small fruits, roosting either in their burrows or aboveground on trees or telephone wires.

- **NEST** A burrow up to 10 ft (3 m) long with an unlined cavity at the end, dug by the birds in a bank or cliff face.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Argentina and Chile. Irregularly winters as far north as N. Argentina and possibly Uruguay.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

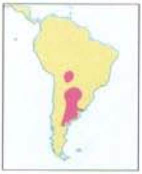
Family **PSITTACIDAE**	Species *Myiopsitta monachus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

MONK PARAKEET

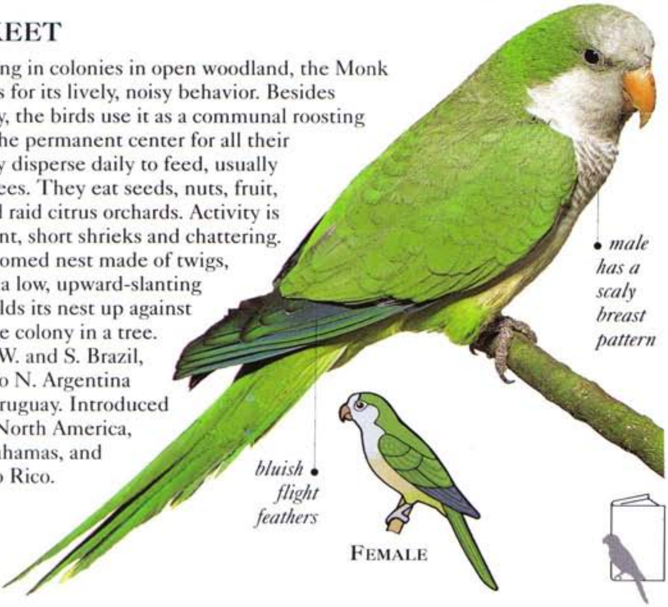
A stout little parrot living in colonies in open woodland, the Monk Parakeet is conspicuous for its lively, noisy behavior. Besides breeding in their colony, the birds use it as a communal roosting place, which makes it the permanent center for all their activity. From here they disperse daily to feed, usually on open ground near trees. They eat seeds, nuts, fruit, buds, and blossoms and raid citrus orchards. Activity is accompanied by constant, short shrieks and chattering.

• **NEST** An unlined, domed nest made of twigs, preferably thorny, with a low, upward-slanting entrance. Each pair builds its nest up against the next, forming a large colony in a tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. and S. Brazil, and through Paraguay to N. Argentina and Uruguay. Introduced in E. North America, the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico.



DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

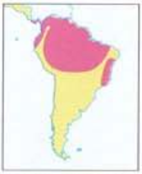
Family **PSITTACIDAE**	Species *Pionus menstruus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

BLUE-HEADED PARROT

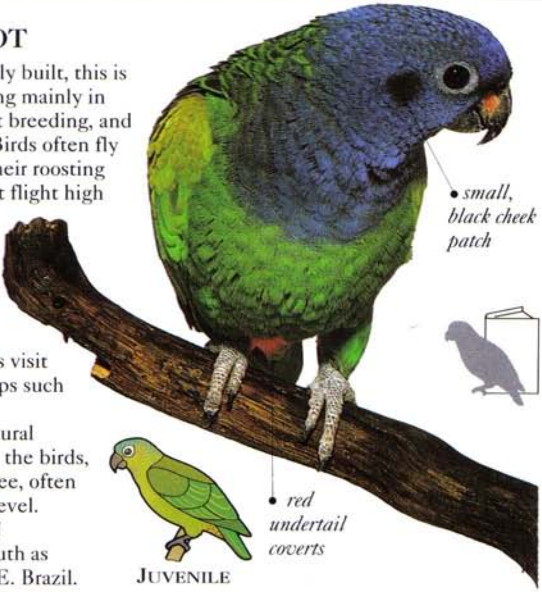
Large-headed, short-tailed, and solidly built, this is a parrot of heavily forested areas, living mainly in the treetops. It forms flocks when not breeding, and roosts in large numbers in the trees. Birds often fly for some distance daily to and from their roosting places, usually traveling in strong, fast flight high above the trees. In flight, they are noisy, with loud, harsh screams and high pitched, screeching calls. After settling to feed in the trees, they become silent. The diet consists of fruit, seeds, and blossoms, mostly taken from trees, but birds sometimes visit farmland to take crops such as corn or bananas.

• **NEST** A bare, natural hollow, extended by the birds, in a dead or living tree, often high above ground level.

• **DISTRIBUTION** From Costa Rica south as far as Bolivia and S.E. Brazil.



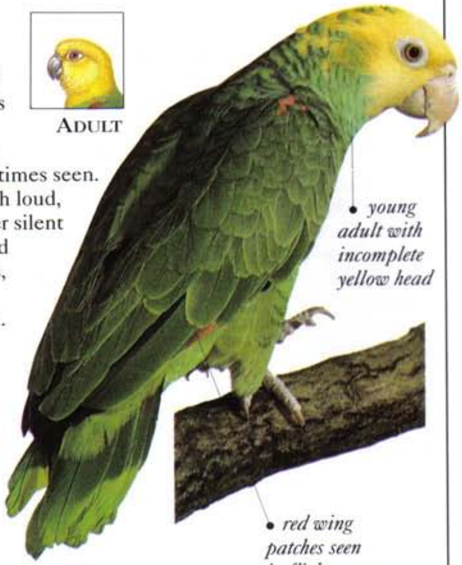
DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

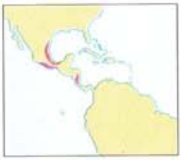
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Amazona oratrix*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

YELLOW-HEADED PARROT


ADULT
young adult with incomplete yellow head
red wing patches seen in flight

Recognizable by the all-yellow head of the adult bird, this is the northernmost species in a series of yellow-crowned parrots of the Amazon group. Pairs or small parties are seen in mature trees, both in forest and in more open places. The species is not highly gregarious, though roosting flocks are sometimes seen. Flight is strong and steady, often accompanied with loud, screeching calls. When feeding, the birds are rather silent and seem reluctant to fly, preferring to clamber and walk among branches. They take fruit, seeds, nuts, and blossoms, either from trees or from bushes. This species uses its foot to hold food up to its bill.

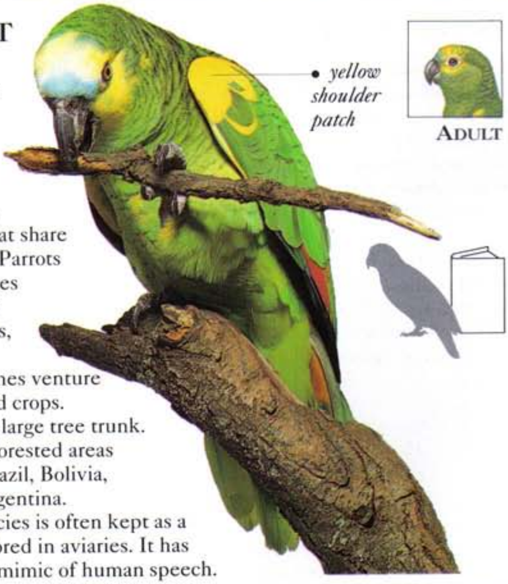
- **NEST** An unlined hollow in a tree or stump, sometimes excavated by the nesting pair.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coastal regions of Mexico, Belize, and extreme N.W. Honduras.


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

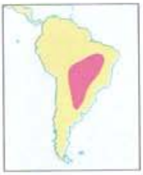
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Amazona aestiva*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

BLUE-FRONTED PARROT



As in most of the large Amazon parrots, adults of this species have a bright patch of color on the head. The "blue front" is a pale blue stripe above the base of the bill, in front of the yellow crown. The head pattern helps birds find and recognize members of their own species among the many similar-looking birds that share their habitat. In the forest, Blue-fronted Parrots feed quietly in the upper branches of trees where most of their food is found. Their diet includes fruits, seeds, nuts, blossoms, and buds. In areas of mixed forest and farmland, they sometimes venture out of the trees and raid crops.

- **NEST** A hollow in a large tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forested areas of interior E. and S. Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and N.E. Argentina.
- **REMARK** This species is often kept as a pet and is sometimes bred in aviaries. It has a reputation as a good mimic of human speech.


DISTRIBUTION

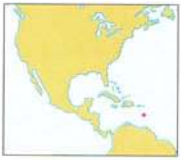
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Amazona guildingii*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

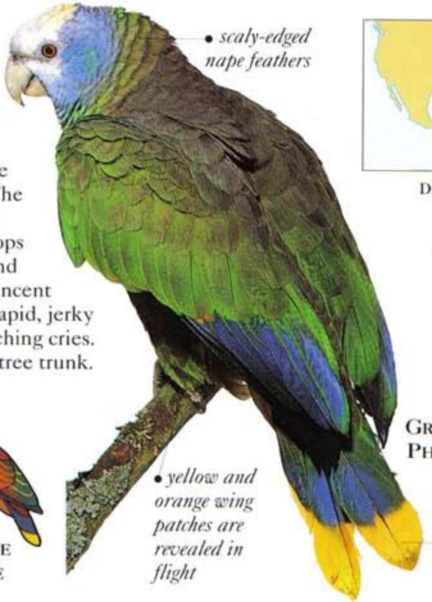
ST. VINCENT PARROT

This large and impressive island parrot occurs in two color phases (*see p. 13*). One phase is mainly green, the other bronze, and both have patches of blue, yellow, and orange. The species lives in rain forest growing on hill slopes, where it feeds in the treetops on fruits, seeds, and blossoms. Pairs and small families form small flocks. St. Vincent Parrots fly strongly and directly with rapid, jerky wingbeats, uttering loud, harsh, screeching cries.

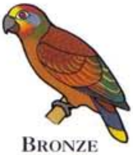
- **NEST** A cavity in a large branch or tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** The island of St. Vincent in the E. Caribbean.
- **REMARK** This is an endangered species with a very small population. Its survival depends on conservation of its rain forest habitat.



DISTRIBUTION



scaly-edged nape feathers
yellow and orange wing patches are revealed in flight
yellow tail tip
GREEN PHASE



BRONZE PHASE

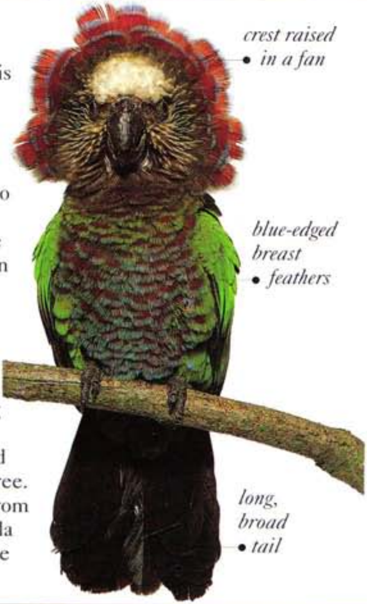
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

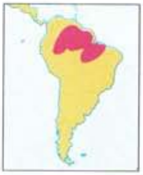
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Deroptyus accipitrinus*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

RED-FAN PARROT

The shaggy, elongated crest feathers and broad tail of this parrot make it instantly identifiable, particularly when the bird is excited and spreads its crest into a broad fan framing the face. At other times the red feathers are sleeked back, giving the head a flat-crowned look. This, with its hooked bill and staring eye, explains why it is also known as the Hawk-headed Parrot. The species usually occurs in pairs or flocks. Its three main habitats are dense tropical forest, the more open type of forest that occurs on ridges of sandy ground, and savanna (tropical grassland) with scattered trees. Red-fan Parrots feed quietly among the foliage on fruit, seeds, and nuts, often flying between the trees with outspread tails. Individuals, and probably pairs and families, roost in tree holes. Calling birds utter wailing sounds, "chacking" notes, and shrieks.

- **NEST** An abandoned woodpecker hole in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Colombia and Venezuela through N. Peru and the Guianas into Brazil.





DISTRIBUTION

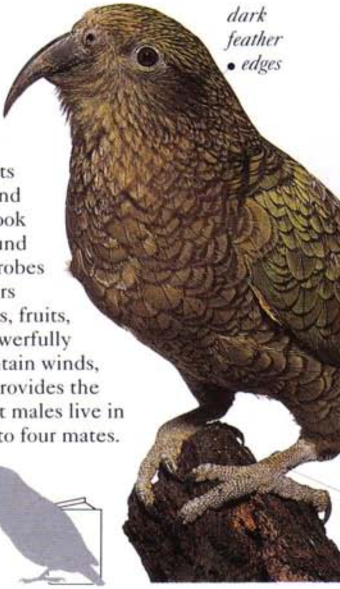
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Nestor notabilis*	Length 19 in (48 cm)

KEA

Large and heavily built with bright orange underwings and a long point on its bill, the Kea is a mountain parrot. It lives in alpine scrub, in grassland, and at the forest edge in areas with winter snows. The Kea spends most of its time foraging on the ground. It is bold and inquisitive in its behavior, prepared to look for new food sources and to explore around houses and farms. With its long bill, it probes the ground for insects and grubs and tears into carrion. Other foods are buds, leaves, fruits, seeds, nectar, and blossoms. Keas fly powerfully and wheel and circle in the strong mountain winds, calling with the raucous "kee-ah" that provides the name. Young birds form flocks, but adult males live in territories and are polygamous, with up to four mates.

- **NEST** A rock crevice or cavity under a rock, among tree roots, or in a log, lined with moss, lichen, leaves, twigs, and chewed wood.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountains on South Island of New Zealand.



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

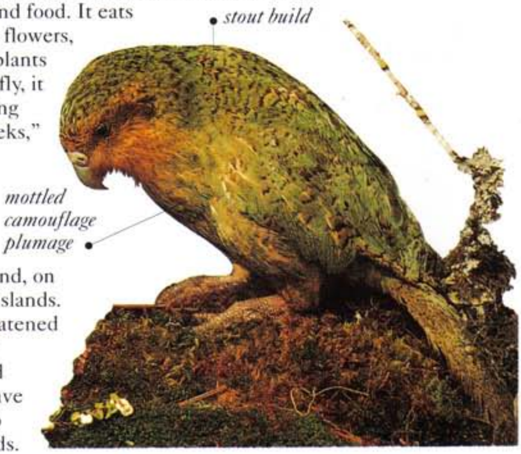
Family PSITTACIDAE	Species *Strigops habroptilus*	Length 25 in (63 cm)

KAKAPO

This creeping, nocturnal bird is unique among parrots. Camouflaged by its mottled plumage, it lives on the ground in groups, roosting by day in holes and emerging to feed at night. Walking slowly, it follows a network of paths and clambers into bushes and trees to find food. It eats pollen-bearing cones from conifer trees, flowers, fruits, and seeds, and also chews green plants for their juices. Although it is unable to fly, it can make short, downhill glides. Breeding males gather at mating grounds called "leks," each digging a hollow and advertising for females with a booming noise.

- **NEST** A cavity in a burrow, in a low or fallen tree trunk, or in a crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand, in south of South Island, on Stewart and other islands.
- **REMARK** Threatened with extinction by introduced rats and stoats. Survivors have been transferred to predator-free islands.

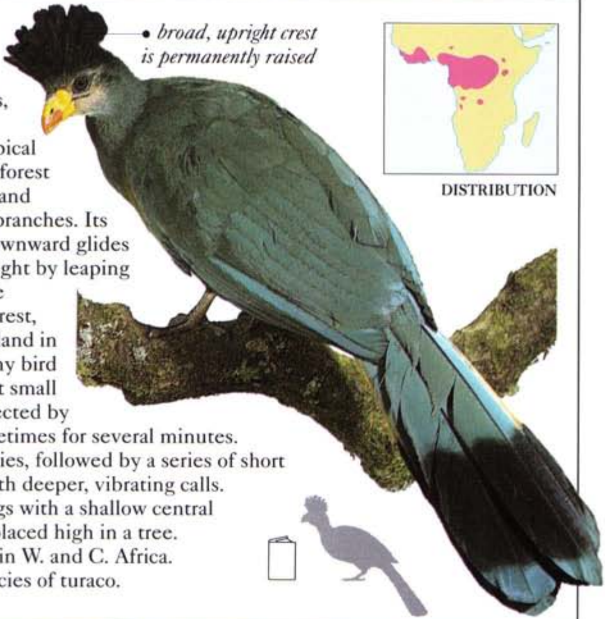
DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family MUSOPHAGIDAE	Species *Corythaeola cristata*	Length 30 in (75 cm)

GREAT BLUE TURACO



DISTRIBUTION

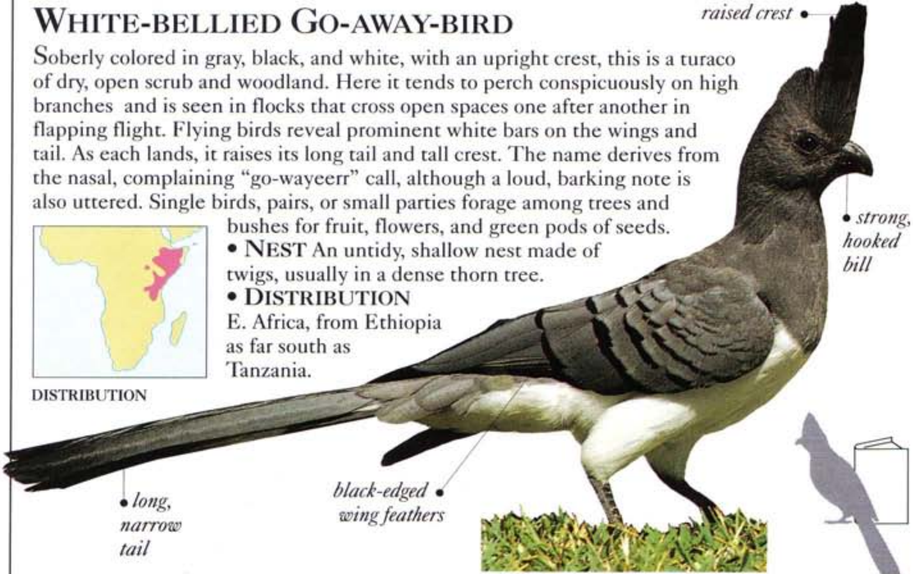
A large turaco with blue upperparts, a red and yellow underside, and a broad crest, this species lives in tropical rain forest. Here it feeds mostly on forest fruits. In the trees, the bird is agile and active, hopping and running along branches. Its flight consists of little more than downward glides and swoops, and it usually gains height by leaping between branches. Habitats include lowland forest edges, river valley forest, mountain forest, and isolated woodland in savanna (tropical grassland). This shy bird is not easily seen among foliage, but small groups often gather and can be detected by their habit of calling in chorus, sometimes for several minutes. The chorus begins with plaintive cries, followed by a series of short "kok-kok" notes, and dies down with deeper, vibrating calls.

- **NEST** A thin platform of dry twigs with a shallow central hollow, lined with finer twigs, and placed high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical forest in W. and C. Africa.
- **REMARK** This is the largest species of turaco.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ♣♣ ♣♠ ♣ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family MUSOPHAGIDAE	Species *Criniferoides leucogaster*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

WHITE-BELLIED GO-AWAY-BIRD



Soberly colored in gray, black, and white, with an upright crest, this is a turaco of dry, open scrub and woodland. Here it tends to perch conspicuously on high branches and is seen in flocks that cross open spaces one after another in flapping flight. Flying birds reveal prominent white bars on the wings and tail. As each lands, it raises its long tail and tall crest. The name derives from the nasal, complaining "go-wayeerr" call, although a loud, barking note is also uttered. Single birds, pairs, or small parties forage among trees and bushes for fruit, flowers, and green pods of seeds.

- **NEST** An untidy, shallow nest made of twigs, usually in a dense thorn tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Africa, from Ethiopia as far south as Tanzania.

DISTRIBUTION

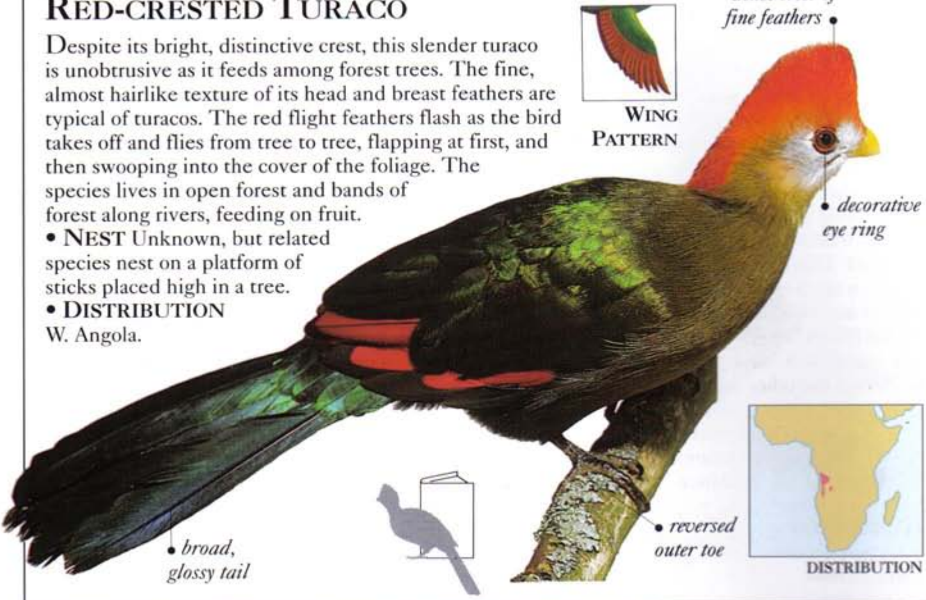
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ♣♠ ✦	Migration Non-migrant

Family MUSOPHAGIDAE	Species *Tauraco erythrolophus*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

RED-CRESTED TURACO

Despite its bright, distinctive crest, this slender turaco is unobtrusive as it feeds among forest trees. The fine, almost hairlike texture of its head and breast feathers are typical of turacos. The red flight feathers flash as the bird takes off and flies from tree to tree, flapping at first, and then swooping into the cover of the foliage. The species lives in open forest and bands of forest along rivers, feeding on fruit.

- **NEST** Unknown, but related species nest on a platform of sticks placed high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. Angola.


WING PATTERN
dense crest of fine feathers
decorative eye ring
broad, glossy tail
reversed outer toe

DISTRIBUTION

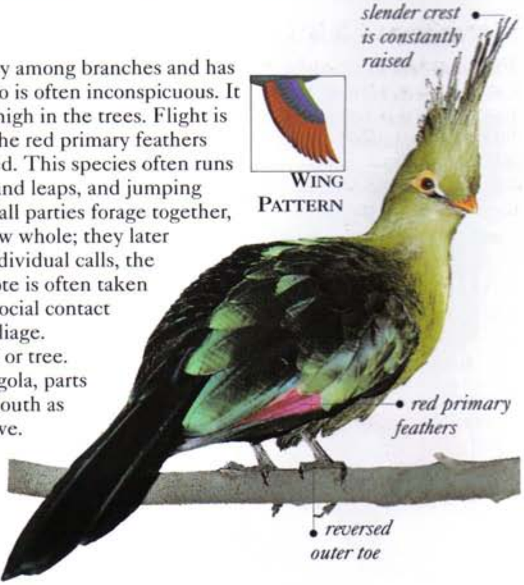
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

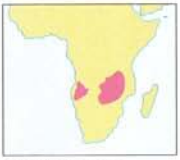
Family MUSOPHAGIDAE	Species *Tauraco schalowi*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

SCHALOW'S TURACO

Although it often moves around actively among branches and has a striking, white-tipped crest, this turaco is often inconspicuous. It is a forest-dwelling species that occurs high in the trees. Flight is strong, with frequent glides, exposing the red primary feathers that are hidden when the bird is perched. This species often runs along branches, making vigorous hops and leaps, and jumping from one branch to another. Pairs or small parties forage together, feeding on fruit, which the birds swallow whole; they later regurgitate the large seeds. When an individual calls, the repeated, resonant "krau-krau-krau" note is often taken up by others. This may help maintain social contact between birds that are hidden in the foliage.

- **NEST** A platform of sticks, in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forest zone in Angola, parts of E. Africa, and south as far as N. Zimbabwe.


slender crest is constantly raised
WING PATTERN
red primary feathers
reversed outer toe


DISTRIBUTION

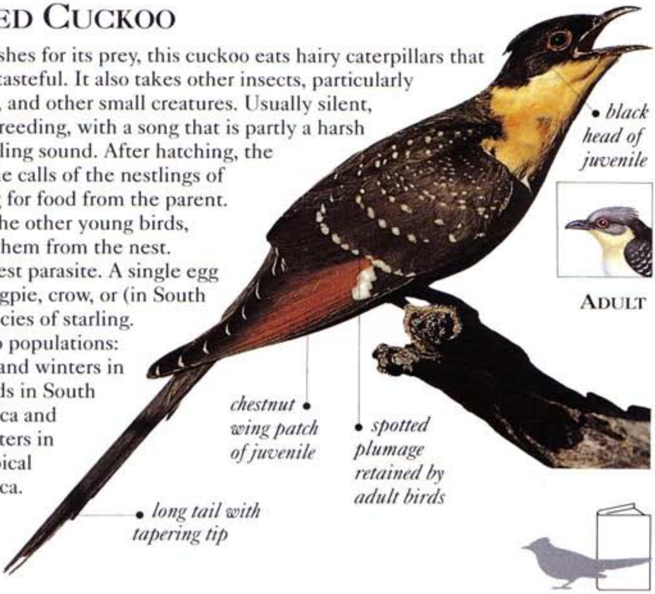
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Clamator glandarius*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

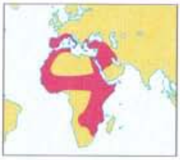
GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO

Hunting in trees and bushes for its prey, this cuckoo eats hairy caterpillars that most other birds find distasteful. It also takes other insects, particularly grasshoppers and locusts, and other small creatures. Usually silent, it becomes noisy when breeding, with a song that is partly a harsh chatter and partly a gobbling sound. After hatching, the young cuckoo imitates the calls of the nestlings of the host species, begging for food from the parent. Before long it outgrows the other young birds, though it does not eject them from the nest.

- **NEST** This bird is a nest parasite. A single egg is laid in the nest of a magpie, crow, or (in South Africa) one of several species of starling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two populations: one breeds in S. Europe and winters in W. Africa; the other breeds in South Africa and winters in tropical Africa.



• black head of juvenile
ADULT
chestnut • wing patch of juvenile
• spotted plumage retained by adult birds
• long tail with tapering tip



DISTRIBUTION

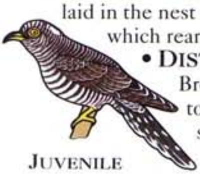
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Cuculus canorus*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

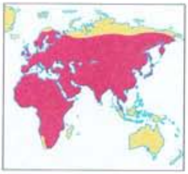
COMMON CUCKOO

The loud "cuckoo" call of the male gives this species, and the family, its name. It feeds on large, hairy caterpillars and other small invertebrates. The female watches a pair of small birds building their nest; then, at an opportune moment, she visits it, removes and often eats an egg, and lays one of her own in its place.

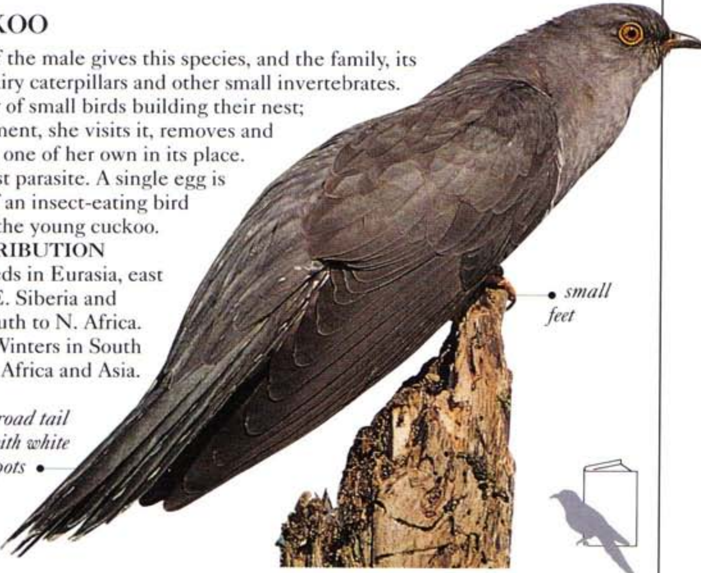
- **NEST** This bird is a nest parasite. A single egg is laid in the nest of an insect-eating bird which rears the young cuckoo.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia, east to E. Siberia and south to N. Africa. Winters in South Africa and Asia.



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family CUCULIDAE

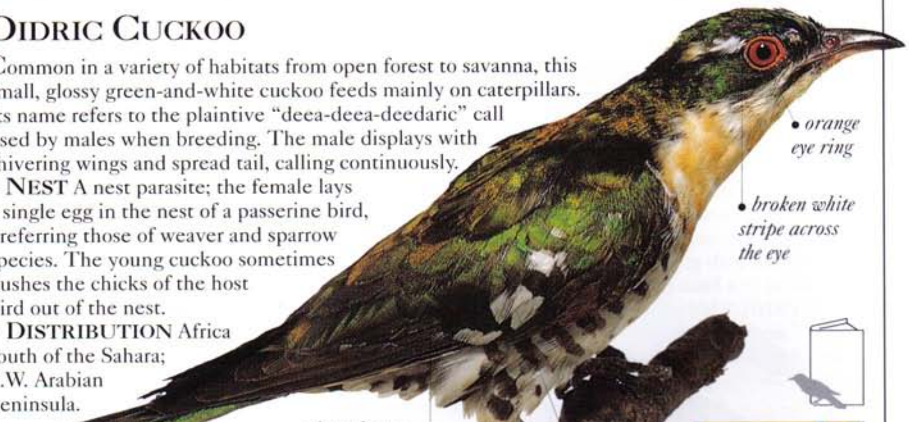
Species *Chrysococcyx caprius*

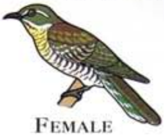
Length 7 in (18 cm)

DIDRIC CUCKOO

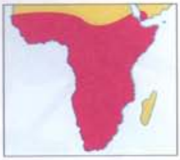
Common in a variety of habitats from open forest to savanna, this small, glossy green-and-white cuckoo feeds mainly on caterpillars. Its name refers to the plaintive "deea-deea-deedaric" call used by males when breeding. The male displays with shivering wings and spread tail, calling continuously.

- **NEST** A nest parasite; the female lays a single egg in the nest of a passerine bird, preferring those of weaver and sparrow species. The young cuckoo sometimes pushes the chicks of the host bird out of the nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara; S.W. Arabian peninsula.


orange eye ring
broken white stripe across the eye
glossy bronze-green plumage
white bars on outer tail feathers revealed when spread
barred flanks



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ slightly

Habitat

Migration Migrant

Family CUCULIDAE

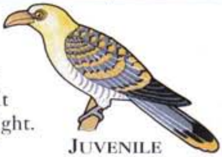
Species *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Length 26 in (65 cm)

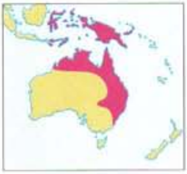
CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO

With its huge, powerful bill, long wings, and long tail, in flight this cuckoo resembles a hornbill (*see pp. 230–231*). It is most active at dusk and dawn and sometimes flies at night. Loud, raucous calls are uttered in flight. This is a bird of the treetops, feeding mainly on fruit such as figs but also taking insects, and sometimes eggs and small nestlings.

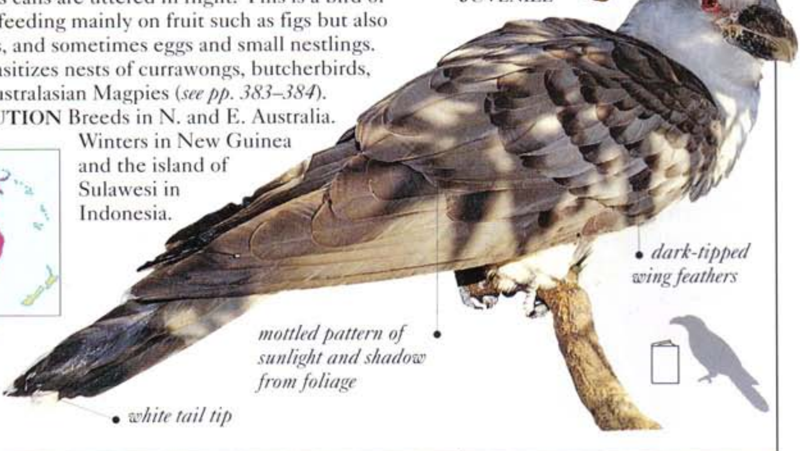
- **NEST** Parasitizes nests of currawongs, butcherbirds, crows, and Australasian Magpies (*see pp. 383–384*).
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. and E. Australia. Winters in New Guinea and the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia.



JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION


dark-tipped wing feathers
mottled pattern of sunlight and shadow from foliage
white tail tip

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

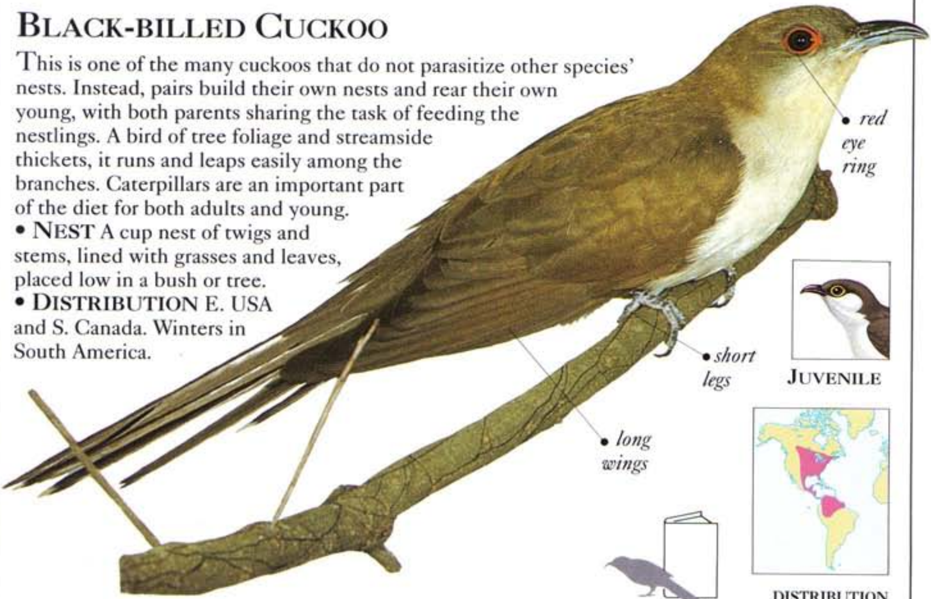
Migration Migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Coccyzus erythropthalmus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO

This is one of the many cuckoos that do not parasitize other species' nests. Instead, pairs build their own nests and rear their own young, with both parents sharing the task of feeding the nestlings. A bird of tree foliage and streamside thickets, it runs and leaps easily among the branches. Caterpillars are an important part of the diet for both adults and young.

- **NEST** A cup nest of twigs and stems, lined with grasses and leaves, placed low in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. USA and S. Canada. Winters in South America.



JUVENILE

DISTRIBUTION

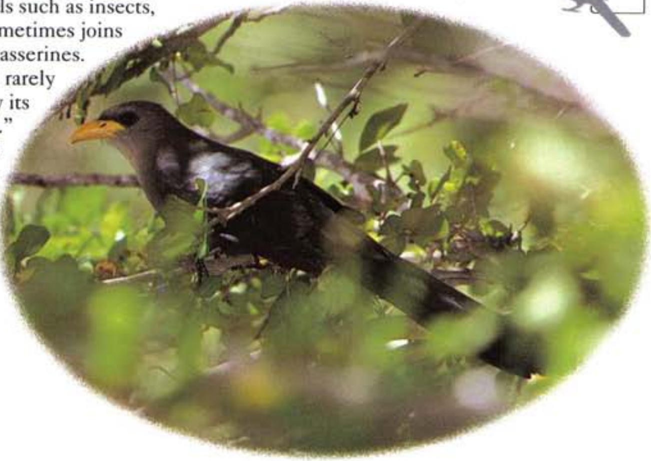
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

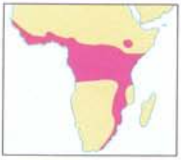
Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Ceuthmochares aereus*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

YELLOWBILL

Agile and active, this slender, long-tailed cuckoo hides in dense, leafy thickets and lives in forest and clusters of scrubby vegetation in grassland. Often occurring in pairs, it takes small animals such as insects, slugs, and tree frogs. It sometimes joins hunting flocks of mixed passerines. Although it is evasive and rarely seen it can be detected by its harsh, low pitched "chaaa."

- **NEST** This cuckoo does not parasitize nests of other birds. A saucer of sticks is built in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.



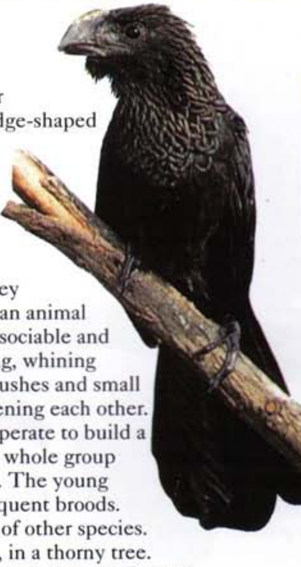


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Crotophaga ani*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI



With a short, squat body and heavy head, this disheveled-looking bird does not resemble other cuckoos. It has a deep, blunt bill and a long, wedge-shaped tail that droops and wags as though loosely attached. Despite its ungainly appearance it walks and runs well, but its flight is poorly developed, consisting of a few rapid flaps interspersed with short glides. Feeding mainly on the ground, it takes grasshoppers and other insects, and follows cattle to catch the insects they disturb. The bird may also settle on the back of an animal and pick ticks off its skin. The species is highly sociable and feeds in small groups, communicating with a long, whining note. When resting, either on the ground or in bushes and small trees, the birds huddle together, sometimes preening each other. Breeding is loosely communal. Several pairs cooperate to build a nest, several females lay their eggs in it, and the whole group shares in incubation and in rearing the nestlings. The young often stay with the group and help to rear subsequent broods.

- **NEST** This bird does not parasitize the nests of other species. A cup nest of coarse twigs is made, with a lining, in a thorny tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. USA (C. Florida) south through Central and South America to W. Ecuador and N. Argentina. Also in the West Indies.

DISTRIBUTION

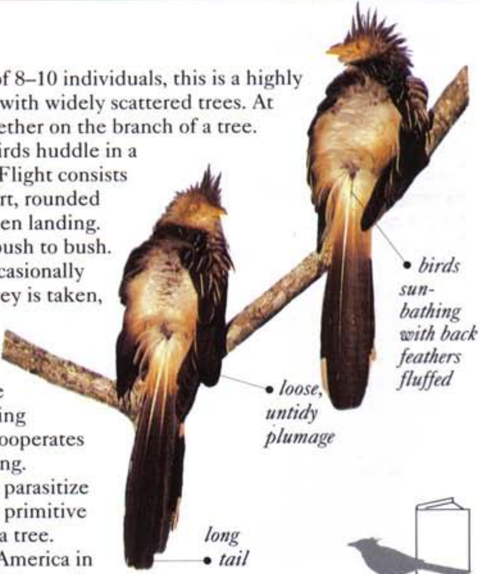
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Guira guira*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

GUIRA CUCKOO

Almost always encountered in small groups of 8–10 individuals, this is a highly sociable species. It lives on dry, grassy plains with widely scattered trees. At night it roosts in flocks that perch closely together on the branch of a tree. Resting in daytime in a similar fashion, the birds huddle in a tight knot, occasionally preening each other. Flight consists of a labored series of flaps and swoops on short, rounded wings, with a pronounced, dipping swoop when landing. Birds are seen flying one after another from bush to bush. Feeding occurs mostly on the ground, but occasionally groups of birds forage in trees. A variety of prey is taken, including worms, insects, small lizards, and mice, as well as eggs and nestlings. The Guira Cuckoo nests communally, with a number of pairs building the nest and several females laying their eggs in it. The group cooperates to incubate and rear the young.

- **NEST** This bird does not parasitize the nests of other species. A primitive structure of twigs is built in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** South America in Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina.



DISTRIBUTION

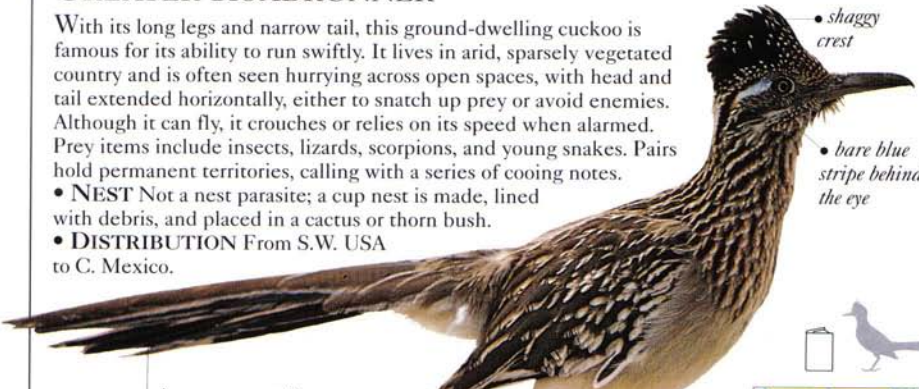
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Geococcyx californianus*	Length 23 in (58 cm)

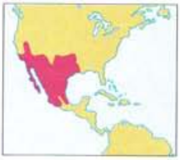
GREATER ROADRUNNER

With its long legs and narrow tail, this ground-dwelling cuckoo is famous for its ability to run swiftly. It lives in arid, sparsely vegetated country and is often seen hurrying across open spaces, with head and tail extended horizontally, either to snatch up prey or avoid enemies. Although it can fly, it crouches or relies on its speed when alarmed. Prey items include insects, lizards, scorpions, and young snakes. Pairs hold permanent territories, calling with a series of cooing notes.

- **NEST** Not a nest parasite; a cup nest is made, lined with debris, and placed in a cactus or thorn bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.W. USA to C. Mexico.



• shaggy crest
• bare blue stripe behind the eye
• long, narrow tail provides balance when running and maneuvering rapidly on the ground
short, • rounded, little-used wings
• long legs for fast running


DISTRIBUTION

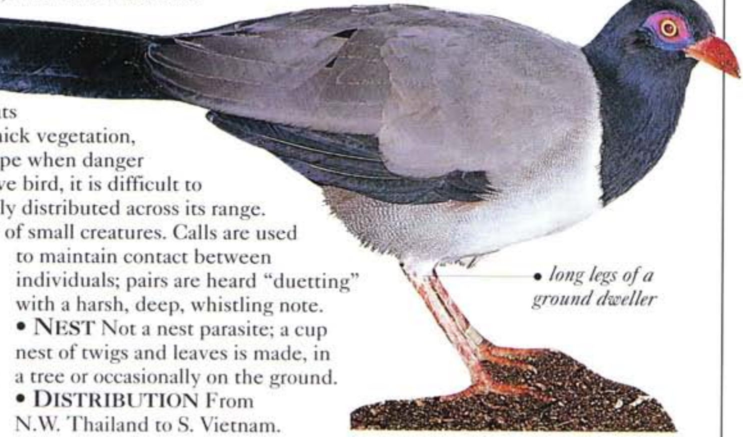
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Carpococcyx renauldi*	Length 27 in (68 cm)

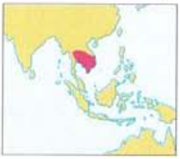
CORAL-BILLED GROUND-CUCKOO

This long-legged, long-tailed bird, with its compact build, is adapted for ground-dwelling in forest conditions. It lives in warm, moist forest, secondary forest (areas where the trees have regrown after forest clearance), and scrub, in lowlands and hills. Within these habitats it prefers areas of thick vegetation, running fast to escape when danger threatens. An evasive bird, it is difficult to observe, and is thinly distributed across its range. It eats a wide range of small creatures. Calls are used to maintain contact between individuals; pairs are heard "duetting" with a harsh, deep, whistling note.

- **NEST** Not a nest parasite; a cup nest of twigs and leaves is made, in a tree or occasionally on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From N.W. Thailand to S. Vietnam.



• long legs of a ground dweller


DISTRIBUTION

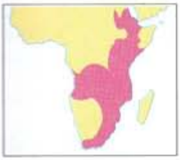
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CUCULIDAE	Species *Centropus superciliosus*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

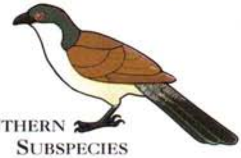
WHITE-BROWED COUCAL

Slenderly built, with a long, broad tail and strong legs, this ground-dwelling cuckoo is a bird of undergrowth. It walks and runs rapidly, pushing its way through grass and herbage, and also jumping and clambering among low branches. Although capable of flight, it prefers to hide in dense vegetation. The wings are short and rounded, and flight is low, labored, and clumsy. The White-browed Coucal lives in grassy areas with bushes, overgrown marshland vegetation, and undergrowth, usually near water. It eats a wide range of insects and small animals. The call is a distinctive bubbling sound, rising and falling in pitch.

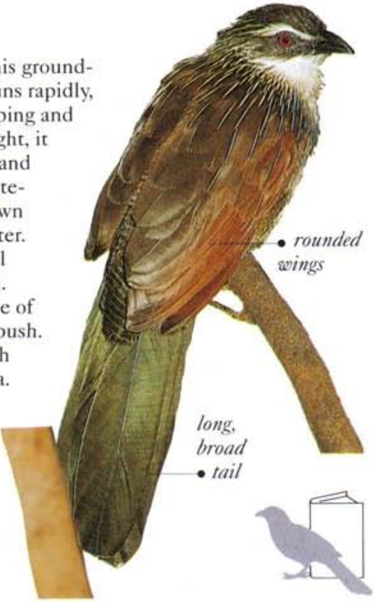
- **NEST** A large, untidy dome with a side entrance, made of grass, placed low above ground or water, in reeds or in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From the Nile Valley in Sudan south through E. Africa, Angola, and Zimbabwe to South Africa.
- **REMARK** Southern subspecies lacks the white "eyebrow" and back markings.



DISTRIBUTION



SOUTHERN SUBSPECIES



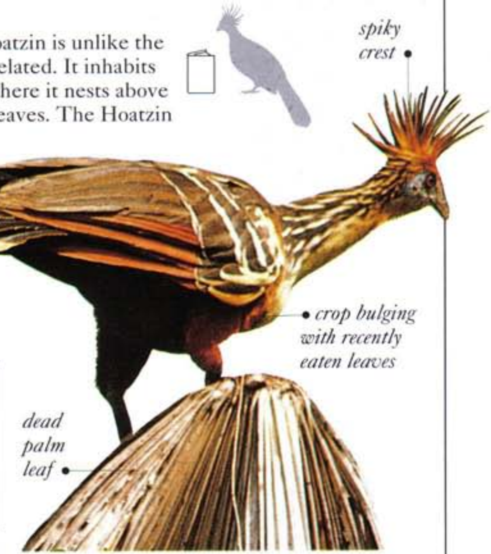
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

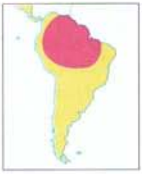
Family OPISTHOCOMIDAE	Species *Opisthocomus hoazin*	Length 26 in (65 cm)

HOATZIN

With its large, heavy body and small head, the Hoatzin is unlike the cuckoos, to which it is now thought to be closely related. It inhabits swampy forest edges bordering rivers and lakes, where it nests above the water. Parties and small flocks feed on green leaves. The Hoatzin eats large quantities of these, which it stores in its crop to digest. The full crop swells up and appears to weigh the bird down, making movement awkward and flight laborious. If threatened, nestlings will drop into the water below the nest, in which they are able to swim; they then climb back, with the help of a claw on the forward edge of each wing.

- **NEST** A frail platform of sticks in a tree above water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Venezuela to Bolivia and Brazil.





DISTRIBUTION

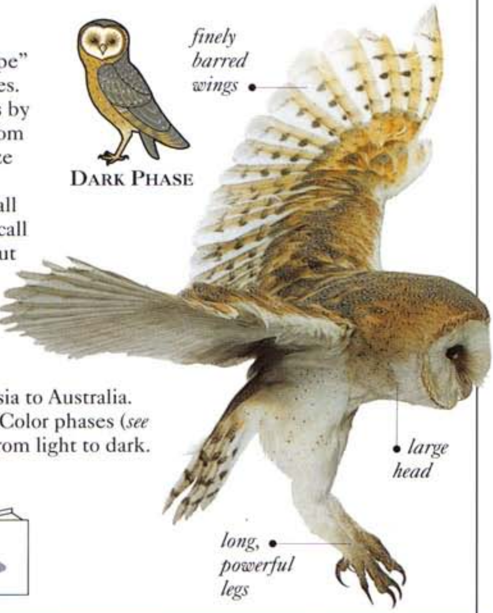
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

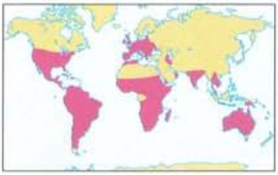
Family TYTONIDAE	Species *Tyto alba*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

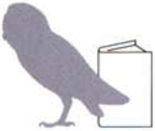
BARN OWL

This bird can be recognized by the "heart shape" formed by the pair of facial disks around its eyes. It has an easy, drifting style of flight, and hunts by flying low over open ground, or by watching from a perch before swooping on silent wings to seize prey. The species can hunt in total darkness, locating prey by sound. Mice, rats, and any small animals that move are eaten. The best known call is a long, quavering screech uttered in flight, but nesting birds also make snoring, hissing calls.

- **NEST** An unlined scrape or cavity in a tree hole, or in a barn or other building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of North and South America, Europe, Africa, and through S. and S.E. Asia to Australia.
- **REMARK** Color phases (*see p. 13*) range from light to dark.




DISTRIBUTION



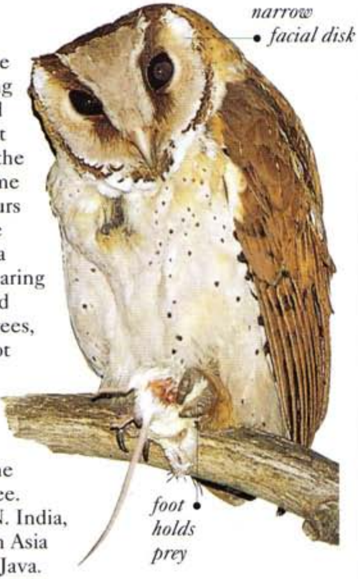
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

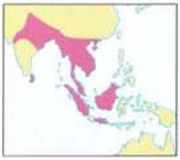
Family TYTONIDAE	Species *Phodilus badius*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

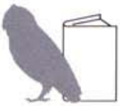
ORIENTAL BAY-OWL

A bird of thick forest, the Oriental Bay-Owl has a distinctive oval face but is difficult to observe as it hunts at night among dense branches and foliage. The facial disks are narrow, and the inner side of each disk projects forward from the head at the top. This results in two blunt projections of feathers at the upper end of the forehead, equivalent to the ear tufts of some "typical" owls (*see pp. 195–203*). The Oriental Bay-Owl occurs in dense forest and secondary forest (areas where trees have regrown after forest clearance). By day it roosts in a hole in a tree, becoming active at night, when it often relies on its hearing to hunt in complete darkness. The short, rounded wings and square tail enable it to maneuver through close-set young trees, and it uses its strong claws to cling to vertical stems, one foot gripping high above the other. A variety of prey is taken, including large insects, frogs, lizards, small birds, and mammals. The call is a rising phrase of musical whistles.

- **NEST** A cavity in the trunk or branch of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. India, Sri Lanka, and through Asia to China, Borneo, and Java.




DISTRIBUTION



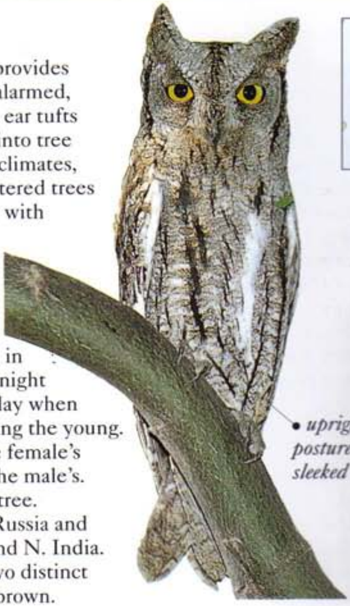
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Otus scops*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

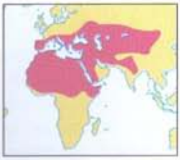
EURASIAN SCOPS-OWL

The streaked plumage of this tiny owl provides camouflage as the bird roosts by day. If alarmed, the bird stands motionless and erects its ear tufts vertically, relying on its ability to blend into tree bark for protection. A bird of warm, dry climates, it hunts in open spaces, and rests in scattered trees during the day. Flight is rapid and level, with regular wingbeats. When hunting, the Scops-Owl swoops down from its perch to seize prey with its feet, sometimes landing beside it first, taking insects, earthworms, amphibians, lizards, and small birds. Sometimes it catches moths in midair. This species is predominantly a night hunter, but males also hunt during the day when the females are incubating eggs or tending the young. The call is a penetrating "tyu" note, the female's note being a little higher in pitch than the male's.

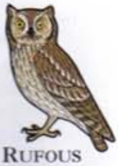
- **NEST** An unlined hole or cavity in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Europe east to Russia and W. China. Winters in N. and C. Africa and N. India.
- **REMARK** In this species there are two distinct color phases (*see p. 13*): gray and rufous brown.



• *upright alarm posture, with feathers sleeked down*



DISTRIBUTION



RUFOUS PHASE

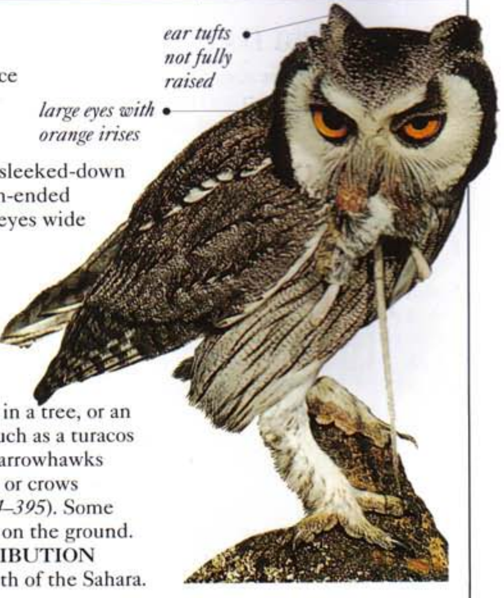
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Otus leucotis*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

WHITE-FACED SCOPS-OWL

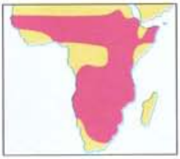
This small owl can be identified by its white face with gray ear tufts and large, fiery-orange eyes. The plumage is mottled, providing camouflage against tree bark when the bird roosts. When alarmed, it freezes into an upright posture with sleeked-down feathers and erect ear tufts, resembling a broken-ended branch. If provoked into a reaction, it opens its eyes wide and snaps aggressively with its bill. The White-faced Scops-Owl is a bird of savanna (tropical and subtropical grassland) and thorn scrub, also inhabiting open forest. It is a nocturnal hunter, taking large insects, small rodents, and small birds caught while roosting. The male utters a two-note hoot; the female has a quavering trill.

- **NEST** An unlined hole in a tree, or an old nest of various birds such as a turacos (*see pp. 186–187*), some sparrowhawks (*see p. 94*), or crows (*see pp 394–395*). Some pairs nest on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.



ear tufts not fully raised •

large eyes with orange irises •



DISTRIBUTION

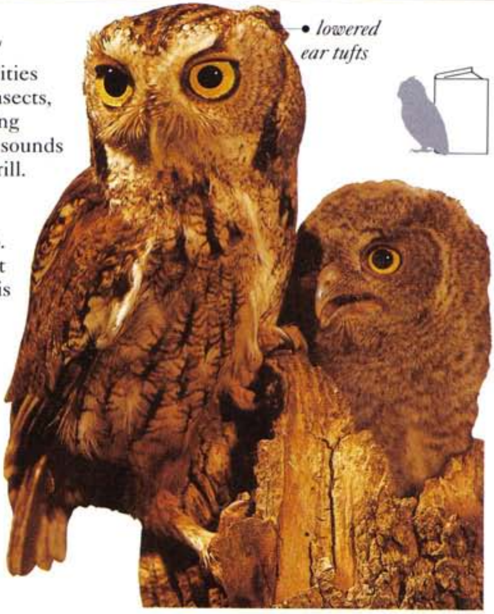
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▁ 🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Otus asio*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

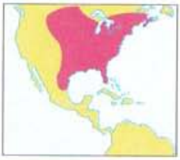
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL

This small woodland owl roosts in tree cavities or thick foliage and hunts prey including insects, birds, and squirrels. Its calls are a descending series of quavering whistles, or the wailing sounds to which the name refers, or a long, sharp trill.

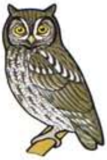
- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Canada through E., C., and S. USA to N.E. Mexico.
- **REMARKS** This species has two distinct color phases (*see p. 13*): rufous and gray. This is one of the many owls that possess earlike tufts, which can be raised or lowered; they express a bird's mood, e.g. whether excited or at rest.



lowered ear tufts



DISTRIBUTION



GRAY PHASE

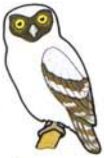
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Pulsatrix perspicillata*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

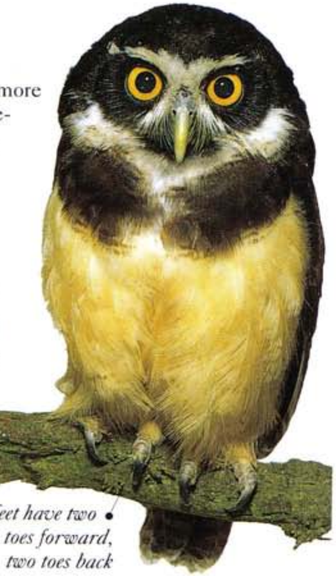
SPECTACLED OWL

A large and roundheaded forest owl, this species has an unmistakable face pattern that accounts for its name. Even more striking is the white-bodied juvenile bird, with its black face-mask. The species lives in such habitats as thick rain forest, open woodland, and riverside bands of trees, but it is nocturnal and rarely seen. Its most typical call is a series of rapid, low pitched hoots. The Spectacled Owl roosts by day on a branch and hunts at night, being most active on moonlit nights. Prey includes insects, tree frogs, birds, mammals, and, in mangrove forest, crabs.

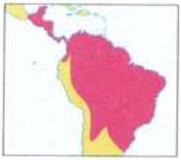
- **NEST** A large hole or cavity in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Mexico south as far as N. Argentina, Paraguay, and S. Brazil.



JUVENILE



feet have two toes forward, two toes back



DISTRIBUTION

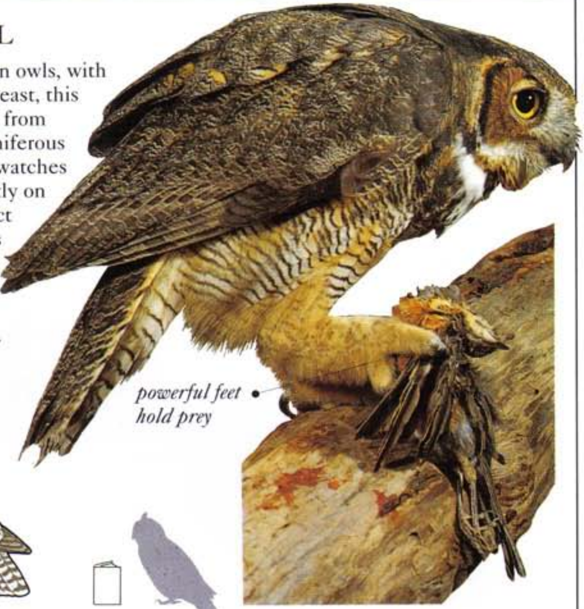
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Bubo virginianus*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

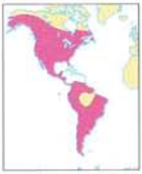
GREAT HORNED OWL

Largest and fiercest of the American owls, with large ear tufts and a finely barred breast, this species occurs in a range of habitats from rocky desert to broadleaved and coniferous forest. Usually hunting by night, it watches from a perch before swooping silently on its prey. It takes any prey from insect size to hares, geese, and turkeys. Its call is a series of deep, soft hoots.

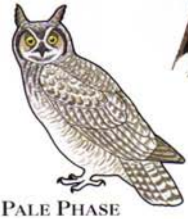
- **NEST** An old nest of a large bird of prey, in a tree or on a cliff.
- **DISTRIBUTION** The Americas.
- **REMARK** Color phases (*p. 13*) from dark to pale.



powerful feet hold prey



DISTRIBUTION



PALE PHASE

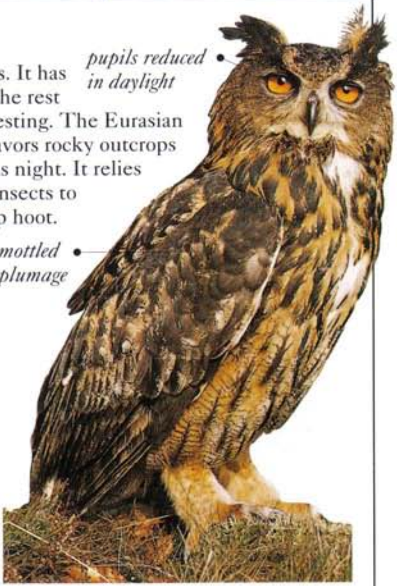
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Bubo bubo*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL

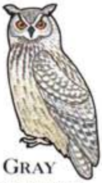
This powerfully built bird is the largest of the world's owls. It has prominent ear tufts and a boldly streaked breast. Most of the rest of the plumage, too, is mottled, giving camouflage when resting. The Eurasian Eagle-Owl is found in most types of country, although it favors rocky outcrops and forests. In parts of its range it is active by day as well as night. It relies on sharp sight when hunting, taking a range of prey from insects to hares, foxes, ducks, and large gamebirds. The call is a deep hoot.

- **NEST** A hollow on a rock ledge or in a cave, or an old nest of an eagle or buzzard (*see pp. 97–99*).
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe, east to Siberia and south to India and China.
- **REMARK** There is considerable variety of color, with phases and local subspecies (*see p. 13*) ranging from dark to light.

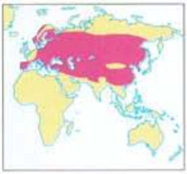


pupils reduced in daylight

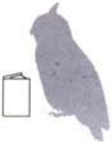
mottled plumage



GRAY SUBSPECIES



DISTRIBUTION

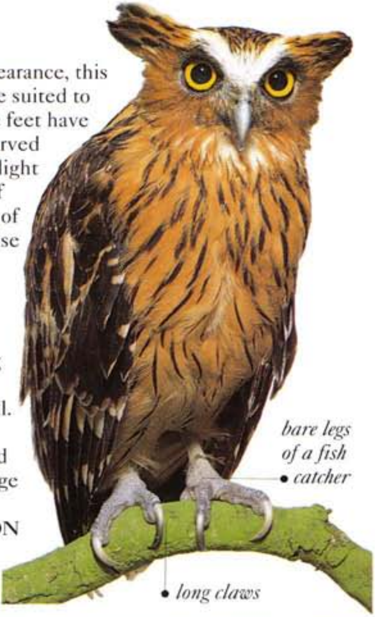


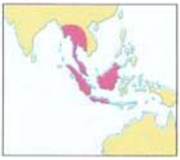
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Ketupa ketupa*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

BUFFY FISH-OWL

Looking like an eagle-owl (*see p. 197*) in its general appearance, this is one of the fish-owls, in which a number of features are suited to their specialized diet. The legs are bare, the soles of the feet have sharp-edged, spiky scales, and the claws are long and curved for snatching fish from water. Fish-owls lack the silent flight of other owls, whose feathers have a fine surface layer of downy strands and a downy edge that muffle the sound of the flying bird. The wings of fish-owls make a slight noise in flight, presumably without impairing fishing ability. The Buffy Fish-Owl occurs in pairs alongside rivers, roosting in the thick foliage of trees beside water. Hunting at night, it watches from a bare branch and swoops to snatch fish from the water surface, also taking crabs, crayfish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and some large insects. It has a soft, musical, two-note, hooting call.




DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a large tree, or an old nest of another large tree-nesting bird.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Asia from Burma and Borneo to Java.

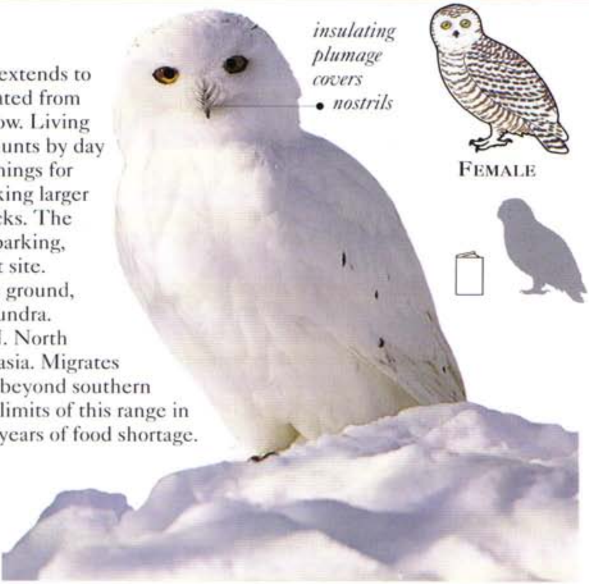
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌊	Migration Non-migrant

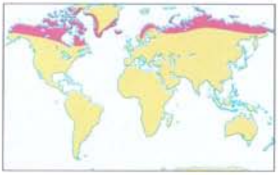
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Nyctea scandiaca*	Length 23 in (58 cm)

SNOWY OWL

With thick, white plumage that extends to the toes, the Snowy Owl is insulated from cold and camouflaged against snow. Living and nesting on Arctic tundra, it hunts by day as well as night. It feeds on lemmings for most of the time, occasionally taking larger prey such as hares, gulls, and ducks. The usual call is a single hoot, while barking, cackling calls are used at the nest site.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, on a slightly raised site in open tundra.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. North America, Greenland, and N. Eurasia. Migrates beyond southern limits of this range in years of food shortage.




DISTRIBUTION

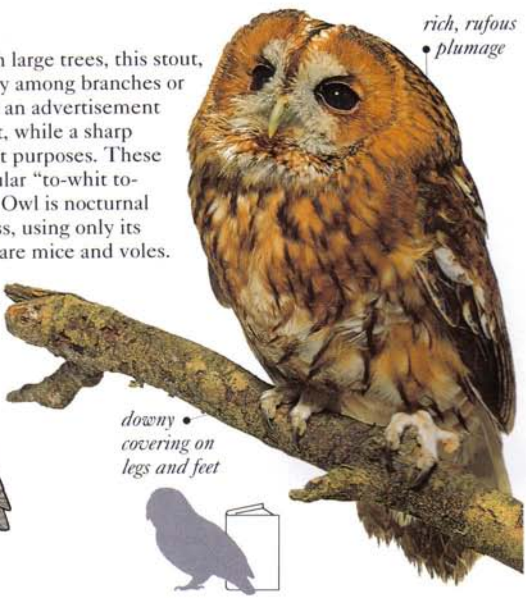
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌾	Migration Partial migrant

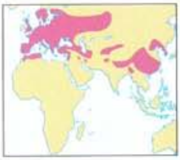
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Strix aluco*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

TAWNY OWL

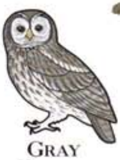
A bird of woodland and open areas with large trees, this stout, roundheaded owl roosts inconspicuously among branches or hidden in a hole. It has two calls: one is an advertisement call consisting of a short and a long hoot, while a sharp "ke-wick" call is also uttered for contact purposes. These are the sounds represented by the popular "to-whit to-whoo" imitation of an owl. The Tawny Owl is nocturnal and is able to hunt in complete darkness, using only its hearing to locate prey. The main foods are mice and voles.

- **NEST** A hollow in a tree or rock.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe and N.W. Africa east to China and Korea.
- **REMARK** Three color phases (*see p. 13*): gray, rufous brown, and dark brown.





DISTRIBUTION



GRAY PHASE

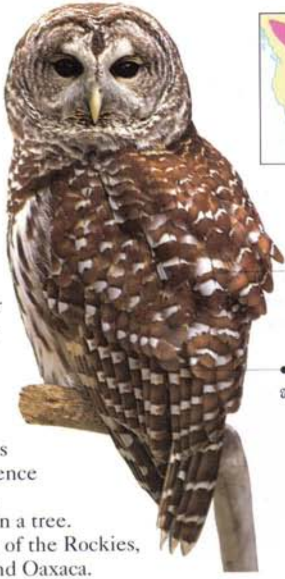
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

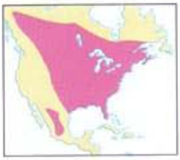
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Strix varia*	Length 21 in (53 cm)

BARRED OWL

The large, dark eyes of this species adapt to the darkness and make use of the slightest amount of light. It is a typical owl of forest habitats, both coniferous and broadleaf, though it also hunts in more open country. It frequently occurs near water. By day it roosts in thick foliage. Like other owls, it is able to hunt in total darkness, provided the prey moves. This is made possible by the asymmetrical positioning of the owl's ear openings on either side of its head. One opening is set a little higher than the other, enabling the bird to pinpoint the source of a sound accurately and to pounce on it. Hunting in this way, the owl catches a wide variety of prey – mainly mice and voles, though other animals, from lizards and frogs to squirrels and hares, are taken. In swampy places, it catches crayfish and fish. The species advertises its presence with a rhythmic series of four or five deep hoots.

- **NEST** The eggs are laid in an unlined cavity in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North America, mostly east of the Rockies, and the Central Plateau of Mexico to Veracruz and Oaxaca.





DISTRIBUTION

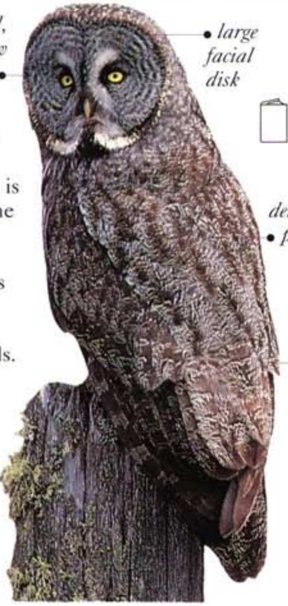
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

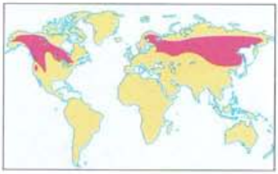
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Strix nebulosa*	Length 27 in (68 cm)

GREAT GRAY OWL

This owl inhabits the cold forests and birch scrub of the far north. It has a round head with very large feather disks on each side of its face. The tops of these stand like bold, questioning eyebrows over the small eyes. The Great Gray Owl looks sturdy but is in fact moderately sized and slender; its large appearance is created by a deep, dense layer of feathers extending to the toes and insulating it against cold weather. This species hunts both by day and by night, watching from a perch and swooping silently to seize prey. Sometimes it plunges through deep snow in pursuit of prey. It roosts in trees, perching close to the trunk. The diet consists mainly of small voles and mice, and also of shrews and small birds.

- **NEST** An old nest of another large bird in a tree, particularly a conifer; or a hollow in a large, broken tree stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of N. North America and across N. Eurasia. Some populations move south irregularly in winter.





DISTRIBUTION

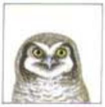
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Surnia ulula*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

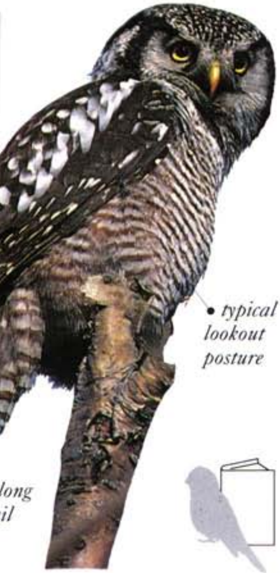
NORTHERN HAWK-OWL

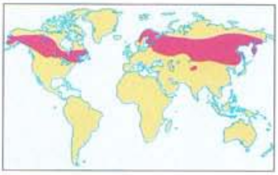
With long, tapering wings, a long tail, and a low-crowned head, this species resembles a hawk or a falcon in outline. It is an active daytime hunter and often leans forward on a conspicuous perch to watch for prey. Flight is steady and direct, with short bursts of wingbeats alternating with glides, and quick turns of agility when catching small birds in the air. The Northern Hawk-Owl usually hunts from a perch, though it will sometimes patrol slowly overhead, hover, and then drop down onto prey. Voles are its main prey, but it also takes some larger mammals. Birds are taken, and are an important item in the diet in winter when other food is scarce. They are sometimes seized in flight. This species utters a deep, rolling hoot and sharp, yelping calls.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, or the old nest of another bird.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of N. North America and across N. Eurasia. Some birds move south in winter within this range.



JUVENILE





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

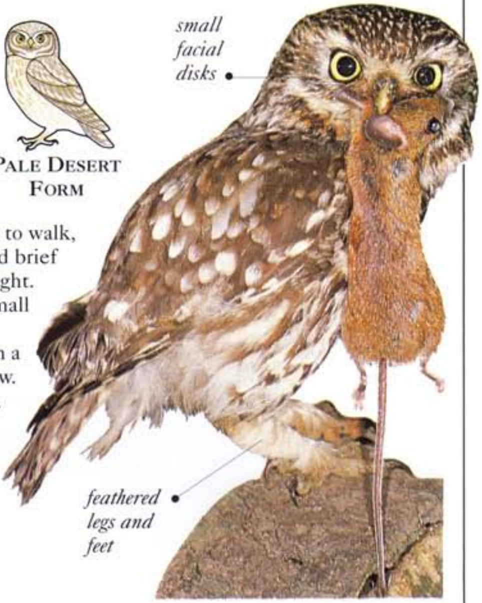
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Athene noctua*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

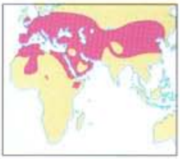
LITTLE OWL

This small, compact owl has a broad head, round wings, a short tail, and feathered legs. The small, wide-set facial disks combined with the low forehead give the bird a scowling expression. An occupant of open places with some cover, it is found in a variety of habitats including farmland, parks, and stony plains. It is active by day as well as by night, and is able to walk, run, and hop. Alternating bursts of wingbeats and brief glides produce a distinctly undulating style of flight. The Little Owl hunts by sight, taking insects, small mammals including rats, and small birds.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree or rock face, a cranny in a barn or outbuilding, or a hollow in a rabbit burrow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe east to China and south into Africa.
- **REMARK** Color phases range from dark to light.

PALE DESERT FORM





DISTRIBUTION

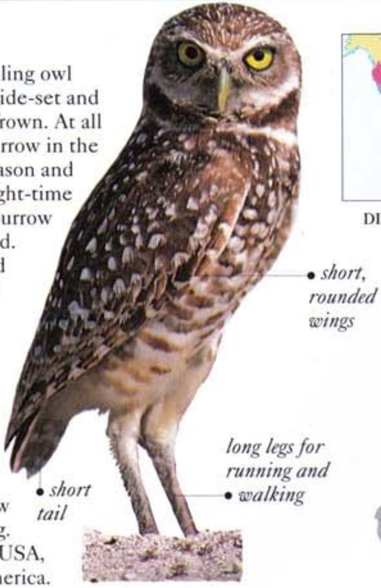
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

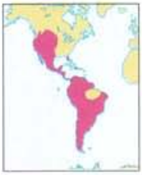
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Speotyto cunicularia*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

BURROWING OWL

Small but long-legged, this is a ground-dwelling owl of open, grassy plains. The facial disks are wide-set and the forehead is low, imparting a permanent frown. At all times of the year, this species frequents a burrow in the ground, which is used for breeding in the season and as a refuge at other times. Being mainly a night-time hunter, it is seen only in the vicinity of the burrow during the day, disappearing inside if alarmed. Flight is low and undulating, a series of rapid wingbeats alternating with brief glides. The Burrowing Owl hunts by swooping from a perch or from the air, or it may hover first, then drop down onto prey. It feeds mainly on insects, particularly grasshoppers and beetles, and sometimes takes lizards, snakes, mice, rats, and birds. It utters a cooing hoot and a clucking alarm note.

- **NEST** A chamber in the old burrow of a ground squirrel or other mammal, or a burrow dug by the pair, lined with stems or dry dung.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.W. Canada, W. USA, Florida, and Central America to S. South America.





DISTRIBUTION

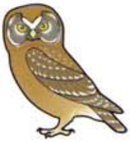
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

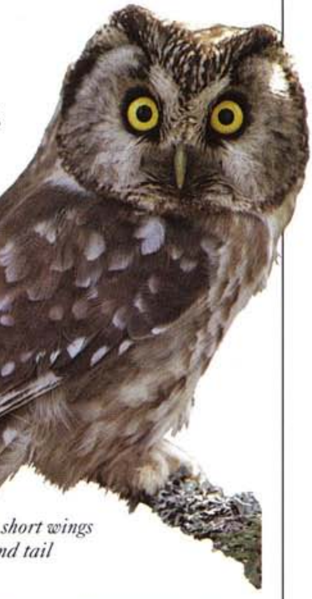
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Aegolius funereus*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

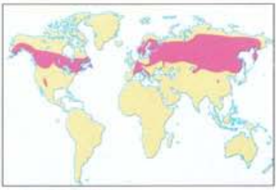
BOREAL OWL

This small, tree-dwelling owl has large, high facial disks and close-set eyes, which combine to give it a surprised expression. It is always found in pine forest, both in densely grown tracts and in more openly spaced fringes and clearings. Its flight is level with rapid wingbeats and straight glides, maneuvering with great skill between trees and branches. The Boreal Owl roosts by day in thick foliage in trees, and is active at night; it also hunts by day when it has nestlings to feed. Its diet consists mainly of voles and some mice, shrews, and small birds. The call is a rapid series of musical, cooing notes.

- **NEST** An unlined hole in a tree, or a nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across N. Eurasia and in N. North America, and from Wyoming to New Mexico. Some birds migrate south.


JUVENILE


• *short wings and tail*


DISTRIBUTION

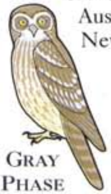
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

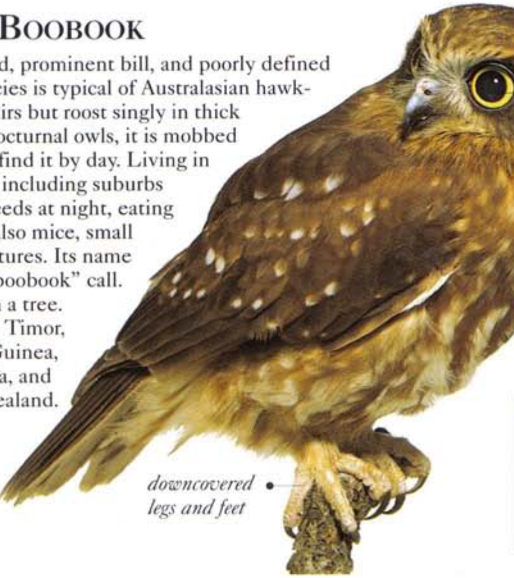
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Ninox novaeseelandiae*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

SOUTHERN BOOBOOK

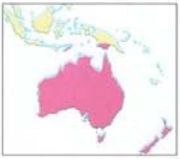
With a rounded head, prominent bill, and poorly defined facial disks, this species is typical of Australasian hawk-owls. Birds live in pairs but roost singly in thick foliage. Like most nocturnal owls, it is mobbed by songbirds if they find it by day. Living in any areas with trees, including suburbs and even towns, it feeds at night, eating mainly insects, and also mice, small birds, and other creatures. Its name is derived from its "boobook" call.

- **NEST** In a hole in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Timor, S. New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand.


GRAY PHASE


• *large eyes*

downcovered legs and feet •


DISTRIBUTION

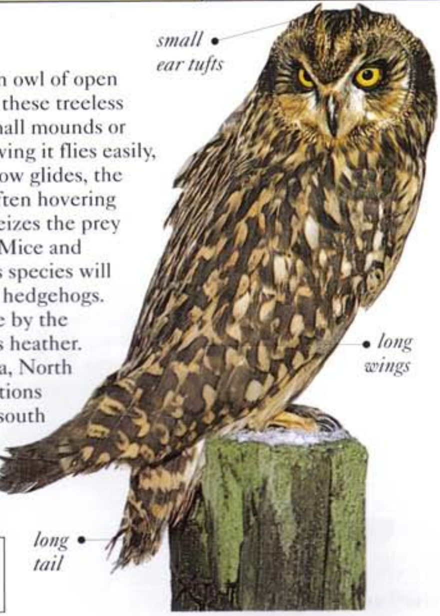
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

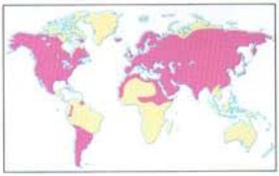
Family STRIGIDAE	Species *Asio flammeus*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

SHORT-EARED OWL

Long-winged and with short ear tufts, this is an owl of open places, grassy plains, marshland, and dunes. In these treeless habitats it rests on the ground or perches on small mounds or posts, and roosts in sheltered hollows. On the wing it flies easily, with regular, deliberate, deep wingbeats and slow glides, the wings forming a shallow V. It hunts in flight, often hovering briefly when it has sighted a victim. The owl seizes the prey in its feet and carries it elsewhere to be eaten. Mice and voles are the main food, but like most owls this species will take any animal, from insects to moorhens and hedgehogs.

- **NEST** A shallow hollow in the ground, made by the birds, either in the open or in low cover such as heather.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Eurasia, North America, and South America. Northern populations migrate as far south as Mexico, Africa, and India.




DISTRIBUTION

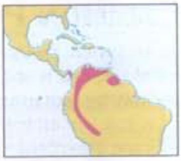
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

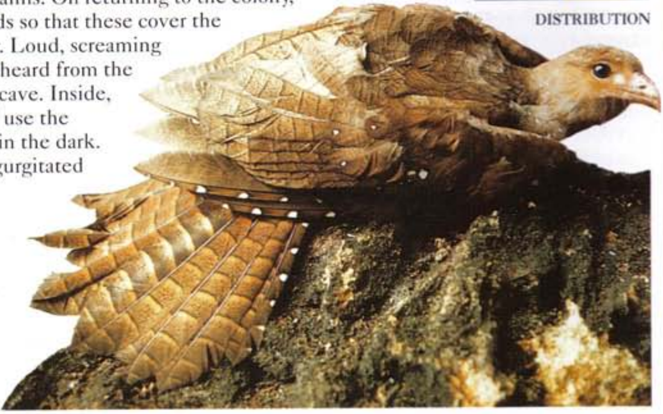
Family STEATORNITHIDAE	Species *Steatornis caripensis*	Length 19 in (48 cm)

OILBIRD

Adapted for feeding on the wing at night, the Oilbird has large eyes, a strong, hooked bill surrounded by sensitive bristles, long, narrow wings, and a long tail. The legs are short and weak. By day it hides in colonies on ledges in dark caves, emerging at night to snatch fruit from trees such as palms. On returning to the colony, birds regurgitate the seeds so that these cover the ledges and the cave floor. Loud, screaming and snarling calls can be heard from the hundreds of birds in the cave. Inside, the birds emit clicks and use the echoes to find their way in the dark.

- **NEST** A mound of regurgitated seeds on a cave ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Panama south to Bolivia and east to Venezuela and Trinidad.


DISTRIBUTION



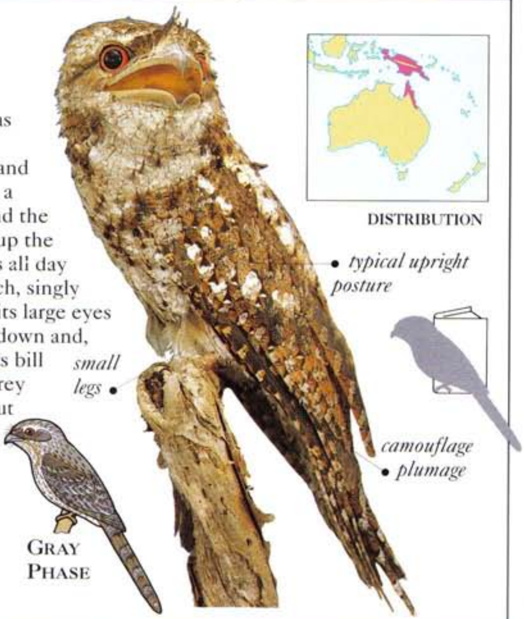
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PODARGIDAE	Species *Podargus papuensis*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

PAPUAN FROGMOUTH

This is one of several nocturnal birds that hide during the day by imitating the appearance of a broken-ended branch. It has finely mottled plumage and rests on a tree branch or projecting snag with eyes closed and bill uptilted. Tail, body, head, and bill form a stiff, slanting shape like a piece of wood, and the ragged tuft on the forehead helps to break up the bird outline. The frogmouth sits motionless all day among forest foliage or on a more open perch, singly or in groups of up to four. At dusk it opens its large eyes and surveys the ground for prey. It swoops down and, instead of taking prey with its feet, opens its bill and mouth in a wide gape and scoops the prey from the ground. Insects are the main food, but frogs, lizards, mice, and birds are also eaten.

- **NEST** A small, flat nest made of twigs, and placed either in a tree fork or in a cavity on a large branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea and extreme N.E. Australia.
- **REMARK** This species has two distinct color phases, rufous and gray.



GRAY PHASE

DISTRIBUTION

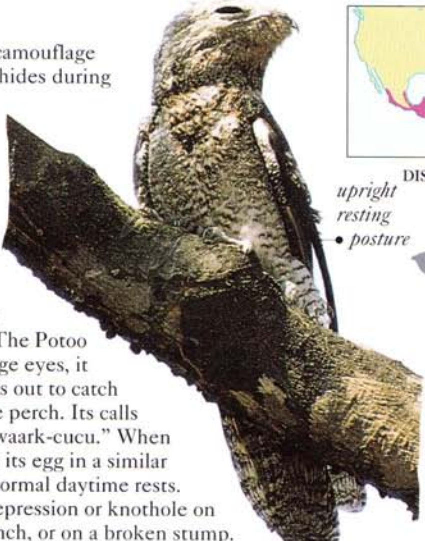
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family NYCTIBIIDAE	Species *Nyctibius jamaicensis*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

COMMON POTOO

A nocturnal, forest-dwelling bird with camouflage plumage, this is one of the species that hides during the day by imitating the appearance of a broken-ended branch. Usually solitary, it perches upright on a sloping branch or the upper end of a vertical snag. It sits with head raised, eyes closed, and bill tilted upward, looking like an extension of the branch. The bill is short and slender with a downcurved tip, but when it is opened a gaping mouth is revealed that stretches across the width of the head. The Potoo becomes active at night. Opening its large eyes, it watches intently from its perch and darts out to catch insects in the air, before returning to the perch. Its calls are a guttural "ho-wow," and a hoarse "waark-cucu." When breeding, the Common Potoo incubates its egg in a similar upright posture to that used during its normal daytime rests.

- **NEST** A single egg is laid in a bare depression or knothole on a branch, at the top end of a broken branch, or on a broken stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Jamaica, Hispaniola; from Mexico to Costa Rica.



DISTRIBUTION

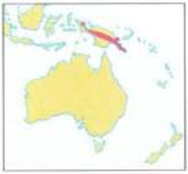
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family AEGOTHELIDAE	Species *Aegotheles insignis*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

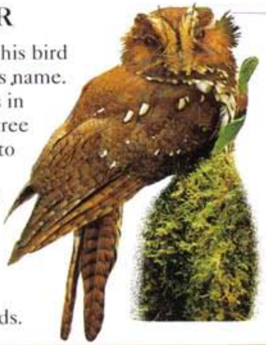
FELINE OWLET-NIGHTJAR

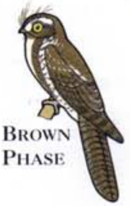
The long, bristling whiskers on the face of this bird resemble those of a cat, giving the species its name. A nocturnal bird of mountain forest, it roosts in tangles of vines or in tree cavities. It is thought to snatch insects from where they rest, in the foliage or branches.

- **NEST** Probably in a cavity in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea Highlands.



DISTRIBUTION





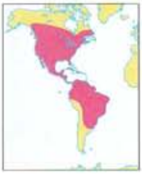
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE	Species *Chordeiles minor*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

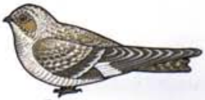
COMMON NIGHTHAWK

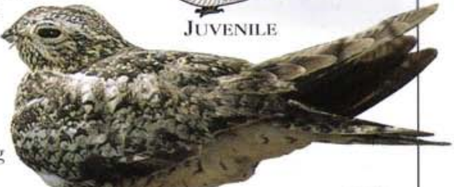
Gray plumage, long, tapering wings with a white patch, and a white throat band help to identify this nightjar. During the day it rests on the ground, on a post, or perched along a branch, but it begins to hunt flying insects in the late afternoon, continuing after dark. Males perform a display flight in which their vibrating wings make a roaring noise. The call is a low, nasal note.

- **NEST** Any bare, flat surface.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North and Central America. Winters in South America to N. Argentina.



DISTRIBUTION





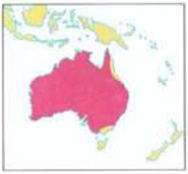
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE	Species *Eurostopodus argus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

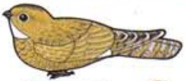
SPOTTED EARED-NIGHTJAR

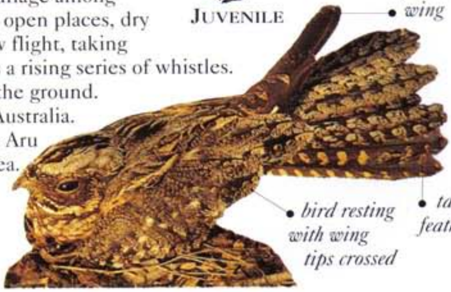
The plumage of this species provides camouflage among dead leaves. It rests on the ground by day in open places, dry woodland, and scrub. At night it hunts in low flight, taking moths, beetles, and other insects. The call is a rising series of whistles.

- **NEST** A hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia. Winters as far north as Aru Islands off New Guinea.



DISTRIBUTION





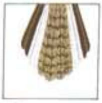
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE | Species *Nyctidromus albicollis* | Length 11 in (28 cm)

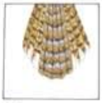
PAURAQUE

This species lives in forest edges, secondary growth (regrown after clearance), and open scrub, nesting in more open areas. By day it rests on the ground or on a low branch, where, in typical nightjar fashion, it perches lengthwise, crouching so that its tapering outline looks like a projection on the branch. It hunts by night, in low, patrolling flight or by darting out from a perch, to seize flying insects such as beetles, moths, and fireflies. In flight, a white patch is revealed on each blunt-tipped wing. The Pauraque often rests on roads at night. The name of this bird imitates its "pur-wheee" call.

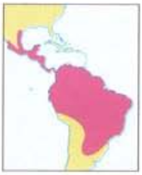
- **NEST** A natural, shallow hollow in the ground, close to low-growing plants.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Texas and Mexico south to Bolivia, Brazil, and N.E. Argentina.



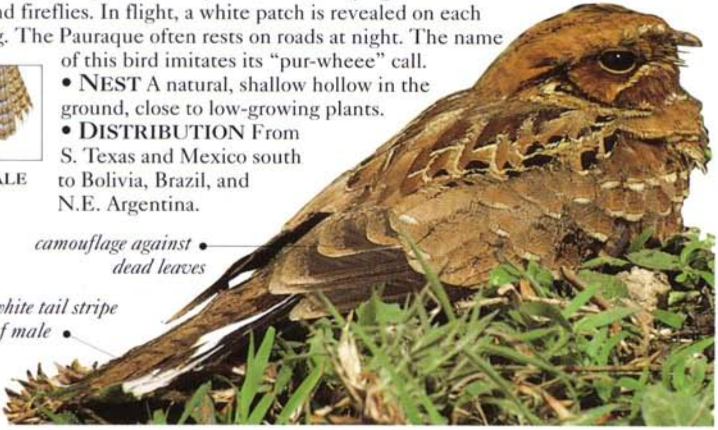
MALE TAIL



FEMALE TAIL



DISTRIBUTION



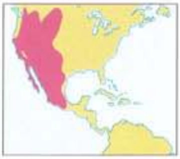
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE | Species *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

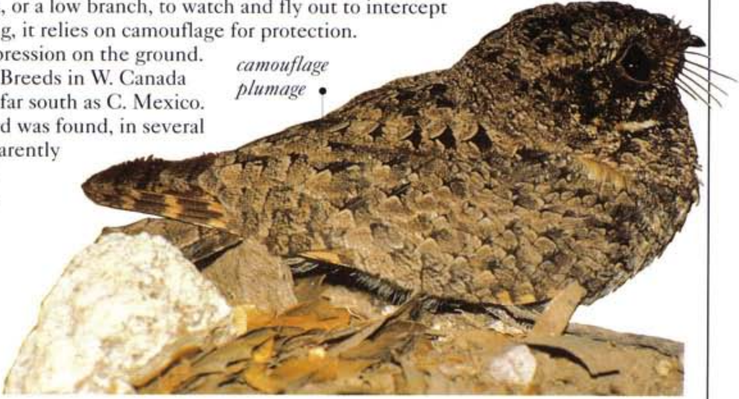
COMMON POORWILL

This small nightjar has a dumpy look, being short and rounded in both wings and tail. A two-syllable whistled "poor-will" call, with a barely audible third note, gives the bird its name. Being nocturnal, the Common Poorwill is more often heard than seen. By day it rests on the ground, in desert sagebrush, dry scrub, or open pinewood. At night it hunts flying insects, either cruising low above the ground or perching on the ground, on a rock, or a low branch, to watch and fly out to intercept its prey. When nesting, it relies on camouflage for protection.

- **NEST** A slight depression on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. Canada and USA. Winters as far south as C. Mexico.
- **REMARK** One bird was found, in several successive years, apparently hibernating in a rock crevice in S.W. USA.



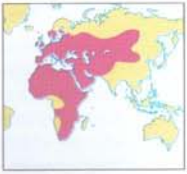
DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes differ slightly | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE	Species *Caprimulgus europaeus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

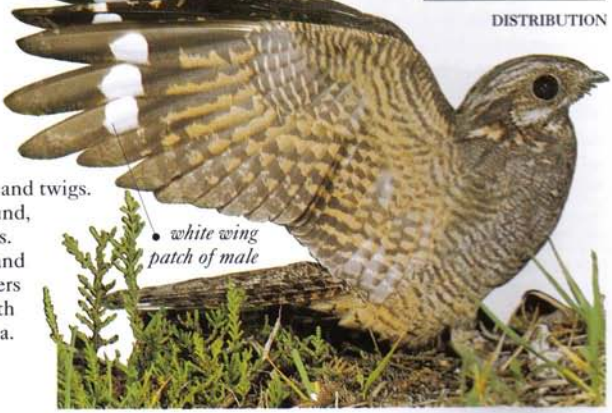
EURASIAN NIGHTJAR

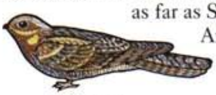


DISTRIBUTION

Rarely seen except when startled from its daytime resting place, this well camouflaged bird is best known for the prolonged, churring note, on a rising or falling trend, that the breeding male utters at night. This sound is difficult to locate. The bird rests by day, on the ground or lying along a branch. By night it silently chases insects in quick, erratic flight. The species favors open sites close to trees where the ground is covered with leaves and twigs.

- **NEST** A piece of open ground, usually close to trees or bushes.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia and N. Africa, east to China. Winters as far as South Africa.





FEMALE

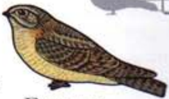
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE	Species *Macrodipteryx longipennis*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

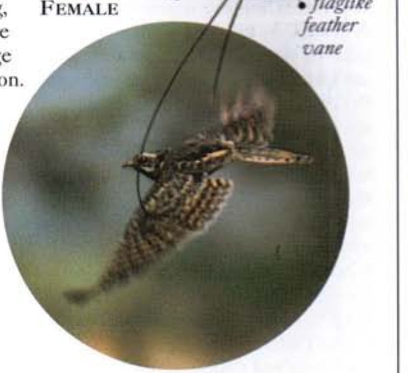
STANDARD-WINGED NIGHTJAR

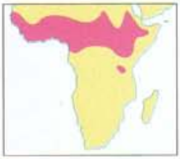
The breeding male of this species has one of the most startling forms of display plumage of all birds. Having evolved to fly in poor light at dusk and dawn, nightjars generally tend to display by flying erratically or by showing unusual white patches or shapes. In this case, a huge feather grows from the middle of each wing. Seen in flight, these appear as two long, slender shafts, each supporting a big, flaglike vane at the tip. In display, the male circles above the female with vibrating wingbeats, raising his two large feathers. These feathers are lost after the breeding season. The Standard-winged Nightjar occurs in dry, stony country with scattered bushes. By day it rests on the ground, where it lies unnoticed unless disturbed. At night it catches insects on the wing. It advertises its presence to females and rival males with a shrill, churring call.

- **NEST** A slight, natural hollow in a bare piece of open ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara, from Senegal east to Ethiopia; isolated population in Uganda and W. Kenya.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

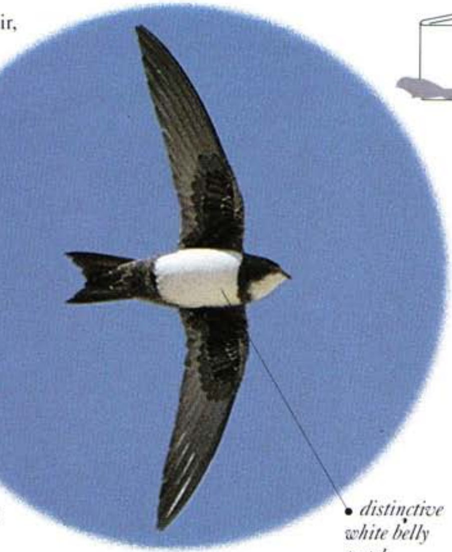
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

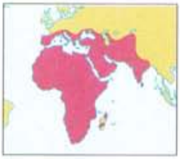
Family APODIDAE	Species *Tachymarptis melba*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

ALPINE SWIFT

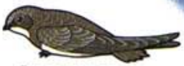
This very large swift is recognizable in the air, where size comparisons are difficult, by its white belly. A powerful flier, it frequents mountain crags, large rock outcrops, and tall buildings, which provide sites for nesting colonies. Unlike the Common Swift, it often roosts at the nest site. The call is a long, trilling scream. The diet consists entirely of insects caught in flight.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant debris and feathers, glued with saliva, on a ledge or in a crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Europe and through E. Africa to the Cape. Northern birds winter in India and Africa.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

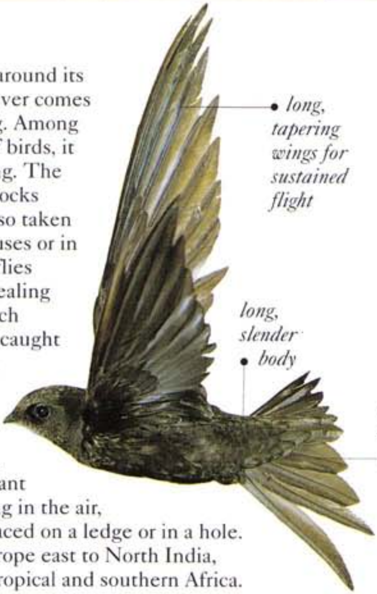
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family APODIDAE	Species *Apus apus*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

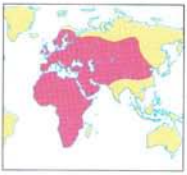
COMMON SWIFT

Often seen circling in fast flight around its breeding colonies, this species never comes down to rest except when nesting. Among the most permanently airborne of birds, it even mates and sleeps on the wing. The natural nest site is a hole among rocks or in a cliff, but the species has also taken to nesting in the roof space of houses or in holes in walls. To feed, the swift flies along with its small bill open, revealing a very wide, gaping mouth in which insects are caught in the air. Prey caught for the young is stored in a pouch below the tongue. The Common Swift even drinks in flight, skimming low over lakes and rivers to scoop up water in its bill.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest of plant debris, and feathers caught drifting in the air, stuck together with saliva, and placed on a ledge or in a hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe east to North India, Mongolia and China. Winters in tropical and southern Africa.



long, tapering wings for sustained flight
long, slender body
tail is forked when not spread out



DISTRIBUTION

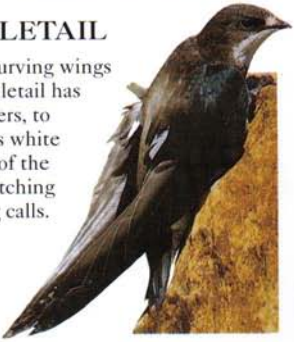
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

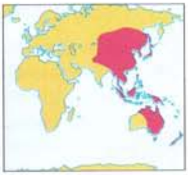
Family APODIDAE | Species *Hirundapus caudacutus* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL

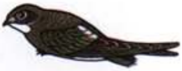
A squarely built swift with long, slender, curving wings and a short body, the White-throated Needletail has projecting spiny tips on the short tail feathers, to which its name refers. In flight it reveals its white throat and a curved white mark at the rear of the belly. It occurs singly or in small parties, catching insects on the wing and uttering screaming calls.

- **NEST** A shallow half-cup in a crevice or a hollow tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Asia and the Himalayas. Winters as far south as New Zealand.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

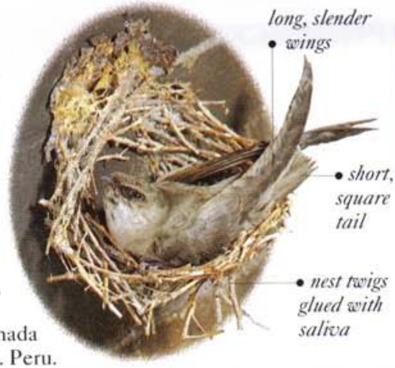
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family APODIDAE | Species *Chaetura pelagica* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

CHIMNEY SWIFT

This small swift has long wings and a short, square tail. It lives and nests in flocks. Birds roost by clinging inside chimneys or hollow trees, where they also nest. They are extremely agile in flight, uttering short, twittering calls. At the nesting colonies, extra adults often help feed the young.

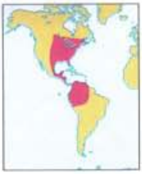
- **NEST** A half-cup made of twig fragments, glued together with saliva, inside a chimney or hollow tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in E. Canada and USA. Winters as far south as N.E. Peru.



long, slender wings

short, square tail

nest twigs glued with saliva



DISTRIBUTION

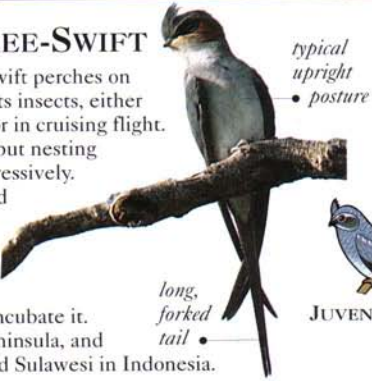
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family HEMIPROCNIDAE | Species *Hemiprocne longipennis* | Length 9 in (23 cm)

GRAY-RUMPED TREE-SWIFT

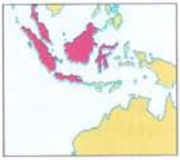
Unlike most swifts, this tree-swift perches on twigs in treetops to rest. It hunts insects, either in darting sallies from a perch or in cruising flight. It often occurs in small flocks, but nesting pairs defend their territory aggressively. Flight consists of bursts of rapid wingbeats and glides on slightly lowered wings.

- **NEST** A tiny cup for the single egg, placed alongside a twig on which the bird sits to incubate it.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, and Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Bali, and Sulawesi in Indonesia.

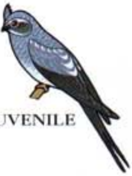


typical upright posture

long, forked tail



DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

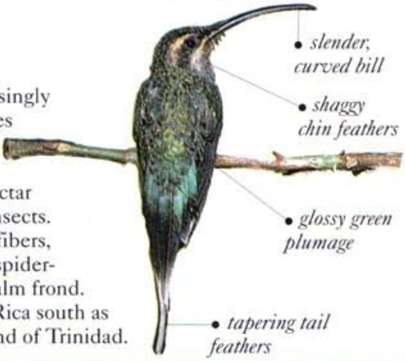
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

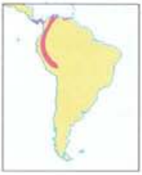
Family TROCHILIDAE | **Species** *Phaethornis guy* | **Length** 5 in (13 cm)

GREEN HERMIT

This small hummingbird is called a hermit because it usually occurs singly and inconspicuously on low perches in damp forest undergrowth. It visits a series of feeding places, sometimes quite far off, to take nectar from flowers, and also eats small insects.

- **NEST** A long cup nest of plant fibers, tapering to a tail, and bound with spiderwebs to the inner tip of a leaf or palm frond.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Costa Rica south as far as Peru. Also occurs on the island of Trinidad.




DISTRIBUTION

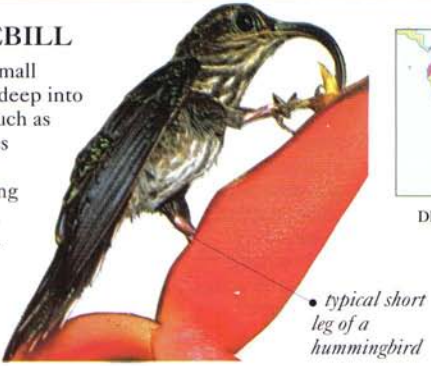
Plumage Sexes alike | **Habitat** 🌳 🌳 ▲ | **Migration** Non-migrant

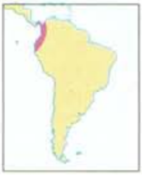
Family TROCHILIDAE | **Species** *Eutoxeres aquila* | **Length** 4¾ in (12 cm)

WHITE-TIPPED SICKLEBILL

The downcurving, strong bill of this small hummingbird is designed for probing deep into the curved, tubular flowers of plants such as heliconias. The shape of the bill makes hovering awkward, so instead the bird clambers over the flowerheads on strong feet. White-tipped Sicklebills occur in rain forest shrubs or at the forest edge.

- **NEST** A long, tapering cup nest of palm fibers, bound to the tip of a leaf with spiderwebs, often over water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forest zone from Costa Rica to N. Peru.




DISTRIBUTION

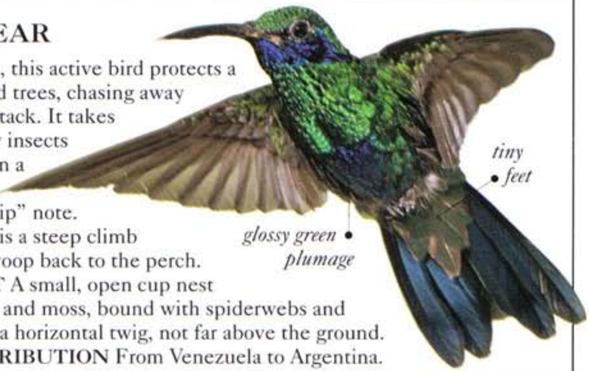
Plumage Sexes alike | **Habitat** 🌳 🌳 ▲ | **Migration** Non-migrant

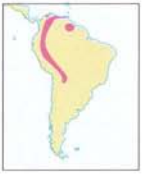
Family TROCHILIDAE | **Species** *Colibri coruscans* | **Length** 4¾ in (12 cm)

SPARKLING VIOLET-EAR

Occurring in open places with trees, this active bird protects a territory around flowering plants and trees, chasing away competitors with a rapid, buzzing attack. It takes nectar from flowers and catches tiny insects in the air. Sitting on a high, bare twig, it repeats a quick "tsip" note. The display flight is a steep climb and a swoop back to the perch.

- **NEST** A small, open cup nest of down and moss, bound with spiderwebs and fixed to a horizontal twig, not far above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Venezuela to Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

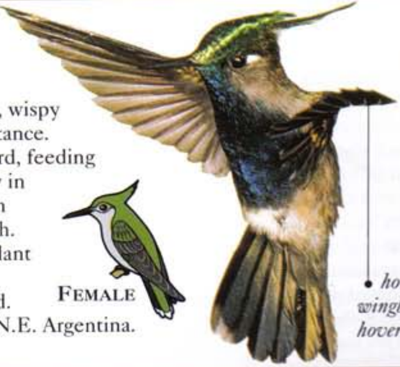
Plumage Sexes alike | **Habitat** 🌳 🌳 ▲ ▲ | **Migration** Non-migrant

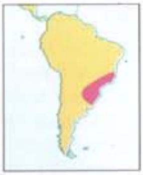
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Stephanoxis lalandi*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

BLACK-BREASTED PLOVERCREST

The male of this species has a long, wispy crest that is barely apparent at a distance. This is an undergrowth-dwelling bird, feeding on nectar and insects. Males display in groups of scattered individuals, each singing from his own perch in a bush.

- **NEST** A tiny cup nest made of plant fibers and spiderwebs, attached to a horizontal twig close to the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Brazil to N.E. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

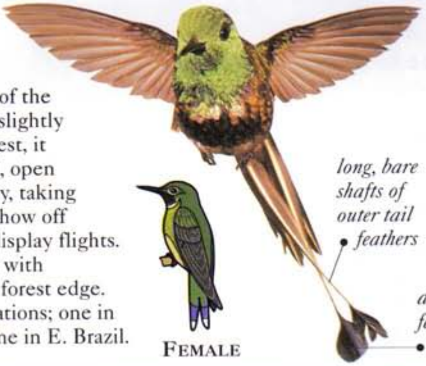
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

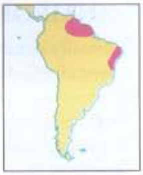
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Discosura longicauda*	L. 3¾ in (9.5 cm)/3 in (7.5 cm)

RACKET-TAILED COQUETTE

The two elongated tail feathers of the male make this tiny bird appear slightly larger. Living in lowland rain forest, it is rarely seen as it feeds on small, open flowers high in the foliage canopy, taking nectar with its short bill. Males show off their distinctive tail feathers in display flights.

- **NEST** A tiny cup nest, bound with spiderwebs, in a twig fork at the forest edge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two populations; one in S. Venezuela and the Guianas, one in E. Brazil.


FEMALE
long, bare shafts of outer tail feathers
decorative feather disks


DISTRIBUTION

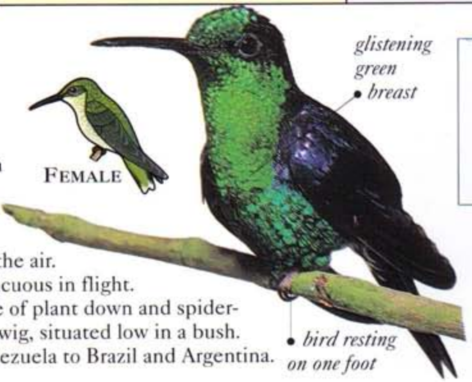
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

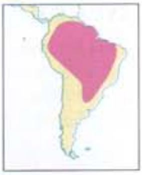
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Thalurania furcata*	Length 3¾ in (9.5 cm)

FORK-TAILED WOODNYMPH

A solitary and territorially aggressive hummingbird, this species lives in undergrowth, in tropical forest and at the forest edge. It feeds on low-growing flowers and also on insects taken from plants or caught in the air. The broad, forked tail is conspicuous in flight.

- **NEST** A little cup nest made of plant down and spiderwebs, saddling a small fork or twig, situated low in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Venezuela to Brazil and Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

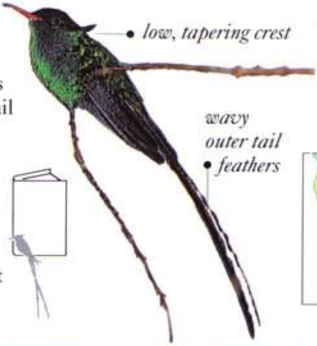
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

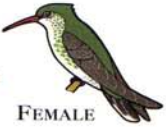
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Trochilus polytmus*	L. 10 in (25 cm)/4¼ in (11 cm)

STREAMERTAIL

With its black cap, tapering, pointed crest and long tail streamers, the male of this species is highly distinctive. The Streamertail feeds on nectar and small insects. As a bird of gardens and sunlit forest clearings, it has benefited from forest clearance, which has created more of its habitat. It has a loud, repetitive "tee-tee-tee" call and often performs a sideways-dancing display flight.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant fibers and plant down, on a level branch, usually in a shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Jamaica.





DISTRIBUTION

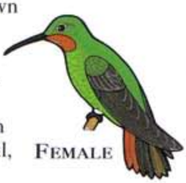
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

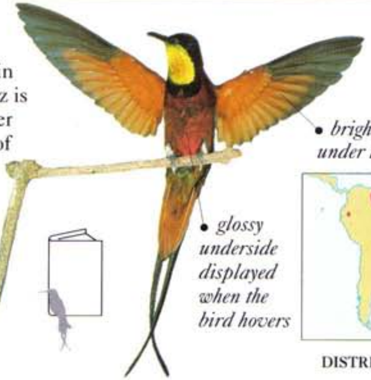
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Topaza pella*	L. 7½ in (19 cm)/6 in (15 cm)

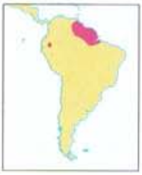
CRIMSON TOPAZ

A vividly colored bird occurring beside streams in seasonally flooded rain forest, the Crimson Topaz is rare within its range. It feeds in middle and upper levels of the forest, taking nectar from a variety of flowers and also catching small insects. The glistening plumage is shown off in a frontal display.

- **NEST** A cup nest, on a branch over a stream.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two populations: one from S.E. Venezuela to N. Brazil, the other in E. Ecuador.




bright color under the wing
glossy underside displayed when the bird hovers


DISTRIBUTION

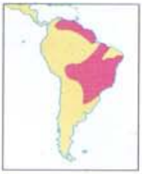
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 ≈	Migration Non-migrant

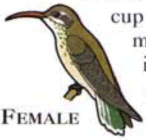
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Polytmus guainumbi*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

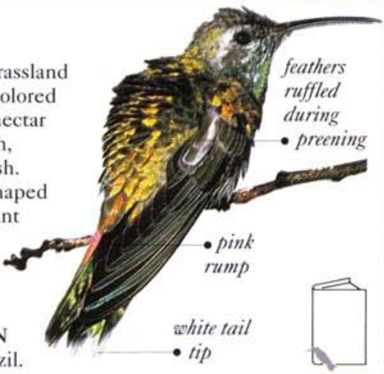
WHITE-TAILED GOLDENTHROAT

This is a bird of open, grassy places, including marshy grassland and areas with scattered shrubs. One of the less vividly colored hummingbirds, it feeds in low foliage, hovering to take nectar from flowers or to pick insects from leaves. It sings a high, three-note phrase from the top of a bush.

- **NEST** A tapering, cone-shaped cup nest made of fine plant material, placed low in a bush or in grass and weeds, often over water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Venezuela to S. Brazil.


DISTRIBUTION





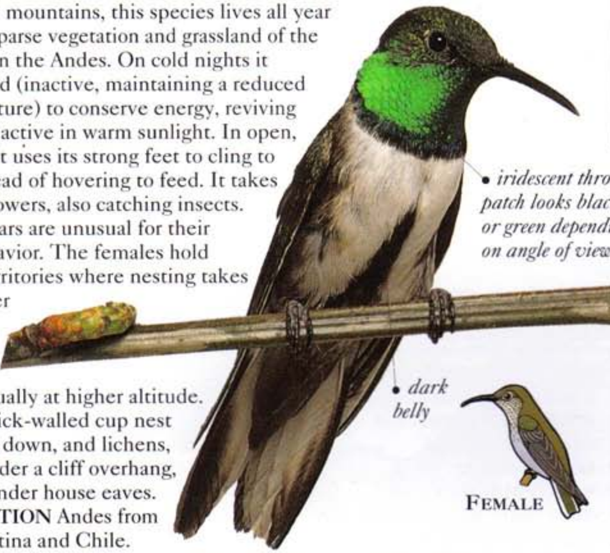
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▁▁ ≈ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

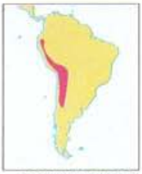
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Oreotrochilus estella*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

ANDEAN HILLSTAR

A bird of high mountains, this species lives all year round in the sparse vegetation and grassland of the Puna Plateau in the Andes. On cold nights it becomes torpid (inactive, maintaining a reduced body temperature) to conserve energy, reviving and becoming active in warm sunlight. In open, windy places it uses its strong feet to cling to branches instead of hovering to feed. It takes nectar from flowers, also catching insects. Andean Hillstars are unusual for their territorial behavior. The females hold permanent territories where nesting takes place, and after nesting the males move out and live elsewhere, usually at higher altitude.

- **NEST** A thick-walled cup nest of moss, plant down, and lichens, suspended under a cliff overhang, in a cave, or under house eaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Peru to Argentina and Chile.


iridescent throat patch looks black or green depending on angle of view
dark belly
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

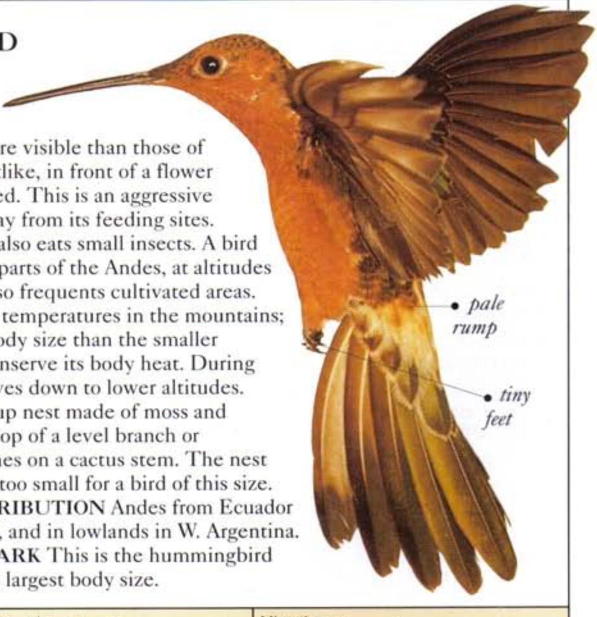
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

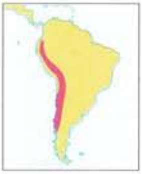
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Patagonia gigas*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD

When seen in flight, this dull-colored hummingbird looks more like a martin or a swift with a long bill. Its wingbeats are slower and more visible than those of other hummingbirds as it hovers, batlike, in front of a flower to take nectar. It often perches to feed. This is an aggressive bird that will chase other species away from its feeding sites. Like other hummingbird species, it also eats small insects. A bird of semi-open scrub in the more arid parts of the Andes, at altitudes where the climate is temperate, it also frequents cultivated areas. Its size helps it to withstand the low temperatures in the mountains; having less surface area relative to body size than the smaller hummingbirds, it is better able to conserve its body heat. During cold weather it moves down to lower altitudes.

- **NEST** A small cup nest made of moss and lichens, placed on top of a level branch or sometimes on a cactus stem. The nest appears too small for a bird of this size.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Ecuador to Chile, and in lowlands in W. Argentina.
- **REMARK** This is the hummingbird with the largest body size.



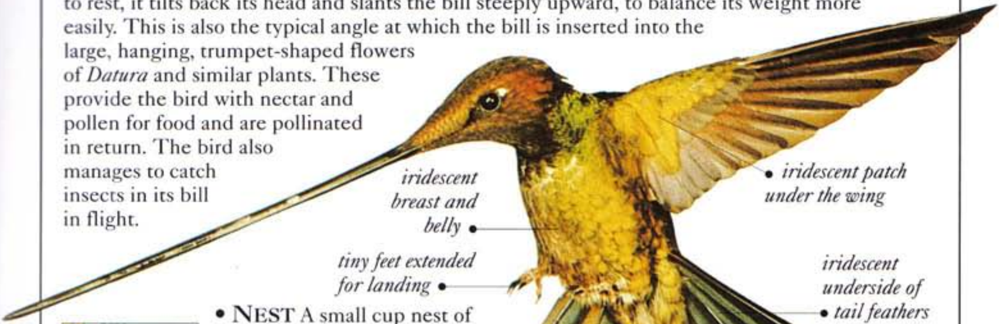

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

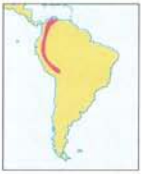
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Ensifera ensifera*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

SWORD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD

The long, slender bill of this species doubles its total length. When the bird perches to rest, it tilts back its head and slants the bill steeply upward, to balance its weight more easily. This is also the typical angle at which the bill is inserted into the large, hanging, trumpet-shaped flowers of *Datura* and similar plants. These provide the bird with nectar and pollen for food and are pollinated in return. The bird also manages to catch insects in its bill in flight.


iridescent breast and belly
tiny feet extended for landing
iridescent patch under the wing
iridescent underside of tail feathers
tail spread for landing

- **NEST** A small cup nest of moss, usually set on a twig in a tree at the forest edge, or sometimes suspended in root fibers exposed on a steep slope.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela south to Bolivia.


DISTRIBUTION

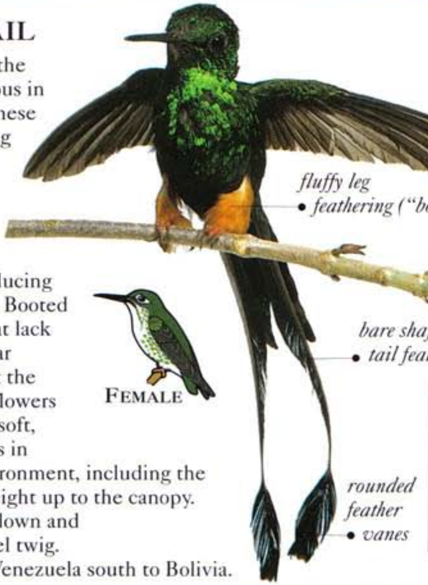
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲ 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

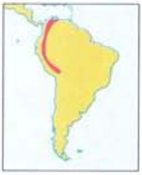
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Ocreatus underwoodii*	L. 4¾ in (12 cm)/3 in (7.5 cm)

BOOTED RACKET-TAIL

The thick, fluffy feathers around the legs of this bird become conspicuous in flight. Although both sexes have these feathers, only the male has the long tail ending in small, rounded "rackets." The birds are seen weaving in and out of the foliage in fast, beelike flight. They stop to hover before a flower, the fast-beating wings producing a deep hum. With their short bills, Booted Racket-tails prefer tree flowers that lack petal tubes. In these flowers, nectar and pollen are within easy reach at the surface. Birds sometimes cling to flowers to feed. While feeding, they utter soft, twittering calls. The species occurs in the more open types of forest environment, including the forest edge, feeding from shrub height up to the canopy.

- **NEST** A tiny cup nest of plant down and spiderwebs, placed on top of a level twig.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela south to Bolivia.


fluffy leg feathering ("boots")
bare shafts of outer tail feathers
rounded feather vanes
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

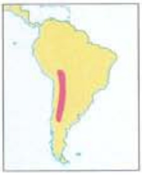
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family TROCHILIDAE | Species *Sappho sparganura* | L. 7½ in (19 cm)/5 in (13 cm)

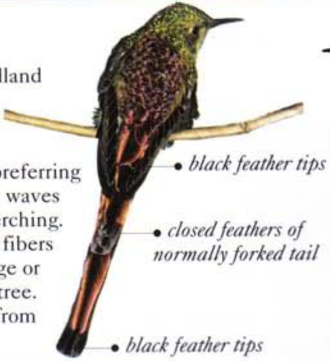
RED-TAILED COMET

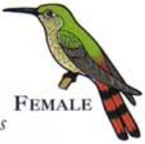
This is a bird of the arid scrub and open woodland at the upper limits of forest on the Andes. Both sexes have long, forked tails with black-tipped, red feathers. The Comet hovers to feed, preferring red flowers. It often fans and waves its tail up and down while perching.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant fibers and moss, on a sheltered ledge or niche of a rock face, wall, or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Bolivia to N.W. Argentina.



DISTRIBUTION


black feather tips
closed feathers of normally forked tail
black feather tips



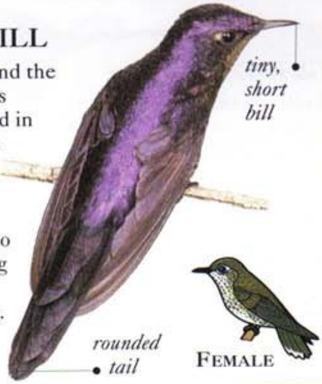
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

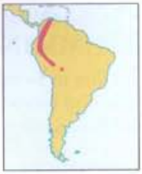
Family TROCHILIDAE | Species *Ramphomicron microrhynchum* | Length 3¼ in (8 cm)

PURPLE-BACKED THORNBILL

An unusually short bill for a hummingbird, and the male's shining, purple back, help identify this diminutive bird. It lives at the forest edge and in open, grassy areas with scattered trees, and is a sociable feeder, visiting flowering trees to take nectar and pollen alongside other individuals and other hummingbird species. Normally hovering to feed, it occasionally also clings to flowers. Insects are caught by gleaning through foliage or are hunted on the wing.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant down, on a twig.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela and Colombia as far south as Bolivia.





DISTRIBUTION

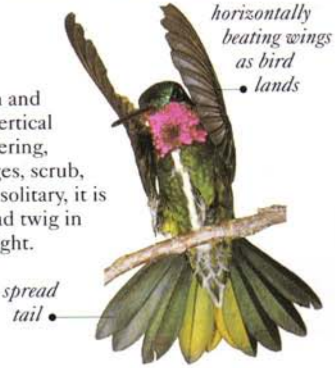
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

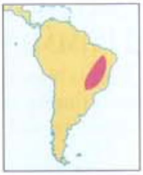
Family TROCHILIDAE | Species *Heliomaster squamosus* | Length 4 in (10 cm)

STRIPE-BREASTED STARTHROAT

Green and violet iridescence on the crown and throat and a dark breast illuminated by a vertical white stripe feature in the Starthroat's hovering, frontal display. It is a bird of woodland edges, scrub, and tall grass with scattered trees. Usually solitary, it is seen resting near the tip of an exposed dead twig in a tree. Besides nectar, it takes insects in flight.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest, made of plant material and spider-webs, placed on the top of a twig.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Brazil.


horizontally beating wings as bird lands
spread tail



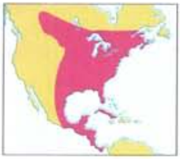
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

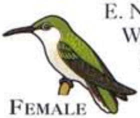
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Archilochus colubris*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

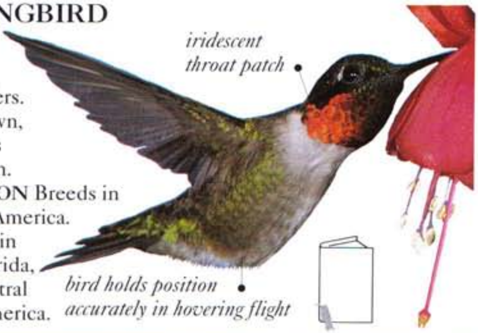
This migrant species visits birdfeeders and garden flowers in summer. Besides its main diet of nectar, it takes insects and spiders. • **NEST** A small cup nest made of plant down, bound with spiderwebs and covered with lichen. • **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in E. North America. Winters in S. Florida, Central America.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

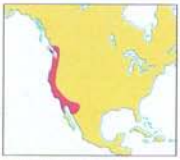

iridescent throat patch
bird holds position accurately in hovering flight

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

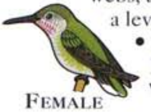
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Calypte anna*	Length 3¾ in (9.5 cm)

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

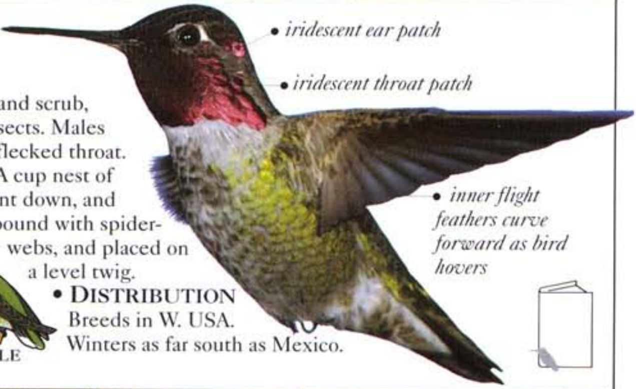
Living in woodlands, gardens, and scrub, this bird feeds on nectar and insects. Males have a red head, females a red-flecked throat. • **NEST** A cup nest of stems, plant down, and feathers, bound with spiderwebs, and placed on a level twig. • **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. USA. Winters as far south as Mexico.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

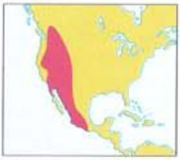

iridescent ear patch
iridescent throat patch
inner flight feathers curve forward as bird hovers

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

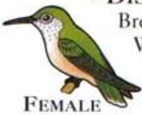
Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Stellula calliope*	Length 3¼ in (8 cm)

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD

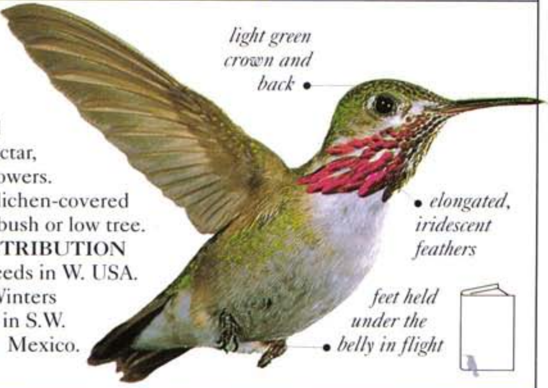
This is North America's smallest bird, occurring by streams in canyons, upland meadows, and conifer forest. It takes nectar, mainly from red flowers. • **NEST** A small, lichen-covered cup on a twig in a bush or low tree. • **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. USA. Winters in S.W. Mexico.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

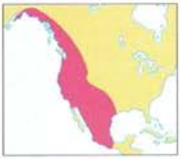

light green crown and back
elongated, iridescent feathers
feet held under the belly in flight

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family TROCHILIDAE	Species *Selasphorus rufus*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

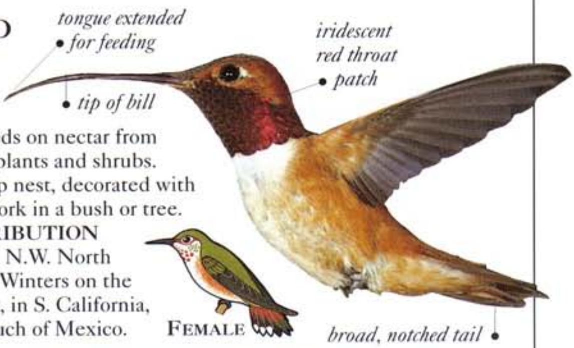
RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Bright, orange-rufous plumage on the head and body of this hummingbird is enhanced by a glittering throat patch. It is lively and aggressive, and feeds on nectar from the flowers of low plants and shrubs.


DISTRIBUTION

• **NEST** A tiny cup nest, decorated with lichens, on a twig fork in a bush or tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N.W. North America. Winters on the gulf coast, in S. California, and in much of Mexico.


tongue extended for feeding
tip of bill
iridescent red throat patch
FEMALE
broad, notched tail

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

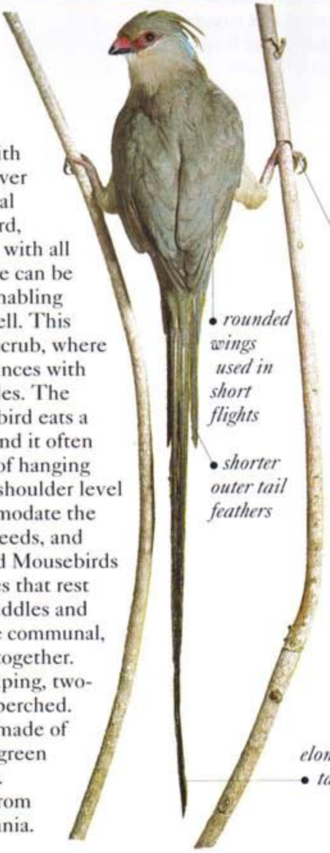
Family COLIIDAE	Species *Urocolius macrourus*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

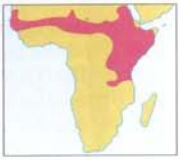
BLUE-NAPED MOUSEBIRD

The name of this species refers to its long, slender tail, soft, hairy-looking plumage, and plump body, together with its habit of clambering and scurrying over and around plants. The feet are unusual because all four toes often point forward, allowing the bird to hang from a perch with all the claws hooked over it. The outer toe can be reversed into a more normal posture enabling the bird to hop, walk, and run quite well. This species occurs in regions of dry thorn scrub, where it travels in level flight over short distances with whirring wingbeats and occasional glides. The main food is green leaves. The mousebird eats a large amount, digesting them slowly, and it often has a potbellied appearance. Its habit of hanging from a perch with feet spread wide at shoulder level could be related to the need to accommodate the bulging crop and full stomach. Fruit, seeds, and some nectar are also eaten. Blue-naped Mousebirds are sociable and usually occur in parties that rest clustered together, roosting in tight huddles and preening each other. Most activities are communal, and the nests are grouped fairly close together. Birds call frequently, uttering a soft, piping, two-note whistle, both in flight and when perched.

• **NEST** An untidy, shallow cup nest made of plant material, often lined with fresh, green leaves, and situated in a bush or a tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical Africa, from Senegal to Somalia and south to Tanzania.

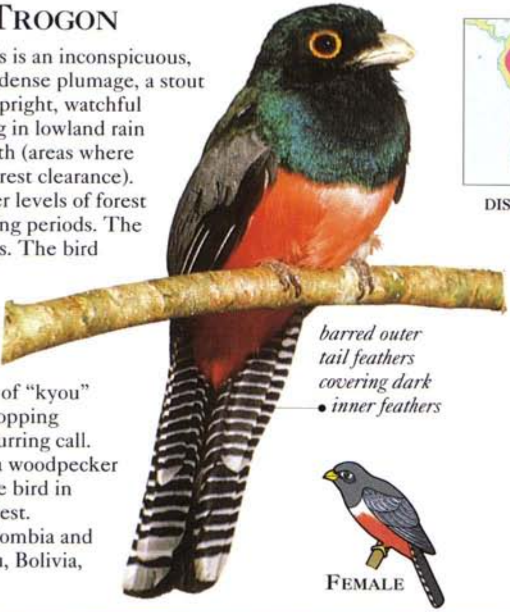

rounded wings used in short flights
shorter outer tail feathers
strong and highly versatile foot – in this photograph all four toes are directed forward and the twig is gripped between the outer and middle front toes
elongated central tail feathers

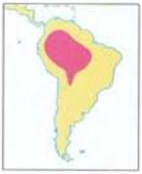

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family TROGONIDAE	Species *Trogon curucui*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

BLUE-CROWNED TROGON


barred outer tail feathers covering dark inner feathers
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

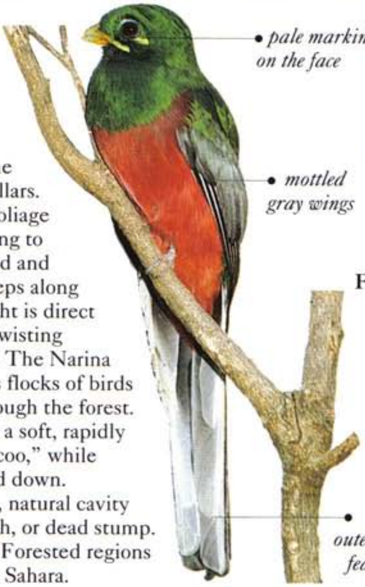
In spite of its bright colors, this is an inconspicuous, forest-dwelling bird with soft, dense plumage, a stout bill, small, weak feet, and an upright, watchful posture. It is uncommon, living in lowland rain forest, and tall secondary growth (areas where the trees have regrown after forest clearance). Perching in the middle or lower levels of forest vegetation, it sits quietly for long periods. The diet consists of fruit and insects. The bird watches for an insect from a perch, then swoops out, hovers momentarily with a flutter of wings, snatches the insect, and takes it back to the perch. The song is a series of "kyou" notes, accelerating and then stopping abruptly. There is also a low, purring call.

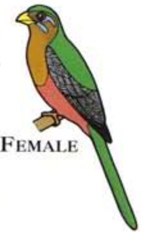
- **NEST** A cavity in a tree, or a woodpecker hole, or a hole excavated by the bird in rotten wood or a tree-termite nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Colombia and N.W. Brazil as far south as Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and N.E. Argentina.

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family TROGONIDAE	Species *Apaloderma narina*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

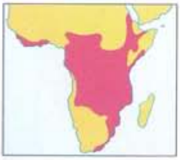
NARINA TROGON




FEMALE

Sitting motionless for long periods on an open branch, this quiet bird is inconspicuous in the upper levels of forest. It is mainly a solitary bird, although pairs sometimes perch near each other. The diet consists of insects, particularly caterpillars. The bird flies out to seize an insect from foliage or a twig while hovering, afterward returning to its perch. Insects are also sometimes chased and caught in midair, and at times the bird creeps along branches in search of prey. Usually the flight is direct and heavy, but the bird is capable of fast, twisting movements when chasing insects in flight. The Narina Trogon sometimes joins the mixed-species flocks of birds that hunt insects through the forest. The male bird utters a soft, rapidly repeated, dovelike "coo," while flexing his tail up and down.

- **NEST** An unlined, natural cavity in a tree trunk, branch, or dead stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forested regions of Africa south of the Sahara.

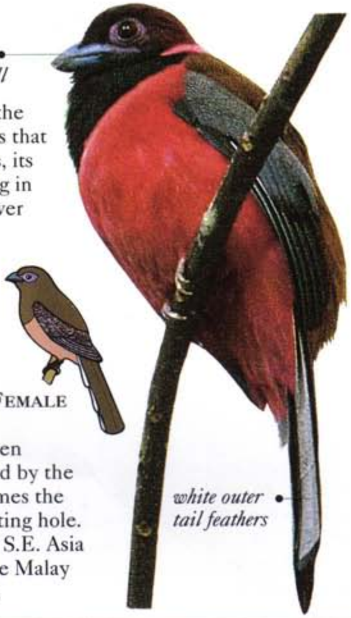

DISTRIBUTION

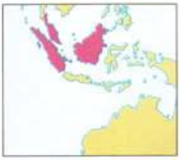
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family TROGONIDAE	Species *Harpactes diardii*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

DIARD'S TROGON

A quiet and inconspicuous bird, Diard's Trogon is widely distributed but nowhere common in the forested lowlands where it lives. It has the rounded wings and long tail with square-tipped feathers that are typical of the trogons but, as in other Asiatic species, its back is rufous-brown instead of green. Usually occurring in pairs, it perches on bare branches in the middle and lower levels of forest foliage. Here the bird sits upright and motionless for long periods, except for slight, watchful movements of the head. When pursuing small insects such as beetles and moths, it moves in rapid and agile flight among branches and vines. The prey is grabbed with a quick movement and a loud flutter of wings before the bird returns to the perch. Diard's Trogon also snatches insects from leaves or twigs while it flies.





DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** An unlined hole in a rotten tree stump, excavated by the nesting pair. Sometimes the birds enlarge an existing hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Asia from Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula to Borneo.

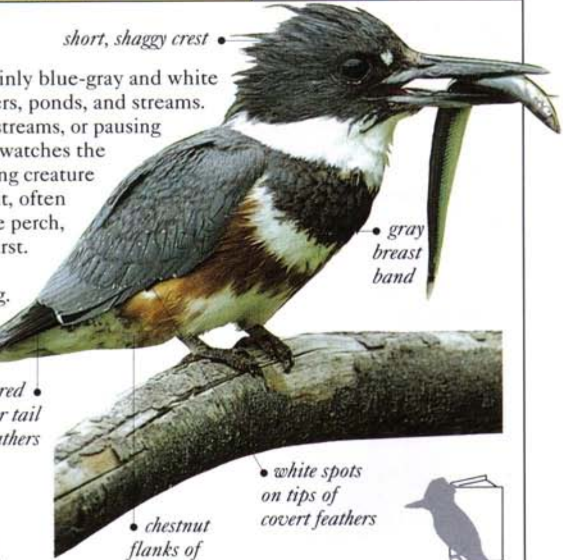
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

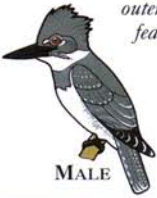
Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Megaceryle alcyon*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

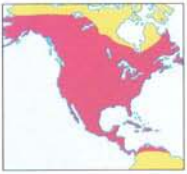
BELTED KINGFISHER

A big, shaggy-headed kingfisher with mainly blue-gray and white plumage, this is a conspicuous bird of rivers, ponds, and streams. It is seen in unsteady-looking flight along streams, or pausing to sit on a prominent perch. From here it watches the water below and when a fish or other moving creature is sighted, the bird plunge-dives to seize it, often first hovering briefly. Fish are carried to the perch, slapped against it, then swallowed head first.

- **NEST** An upward-slanting burrow in a bank beside water, up to 16½ ft (5 m) long.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America. Winters as far south as N. South America.


short, shaggy crest
gray breast band
barred outer tail feathers
white spots on tips of covert feathers
chestnut flanks of female





DISTRIBUTION

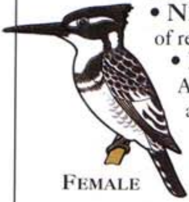
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 〰	Migration Migrant

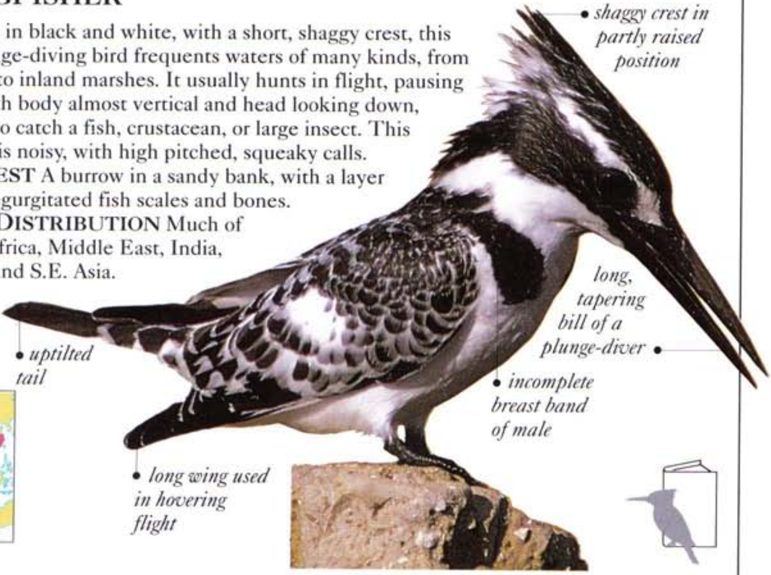
Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Ceryle rudis*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

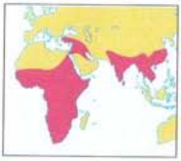
PIED KINGFISHER

Boldly patterned in black and white, with a short, shaggy crest, this conspicuous plunge-diving bird frequents waters of many kinds, from coasts and rivers to inland marshes. It usually hunts in flight, pausing and hovering, with body almost vertical and head looking down, before plunging to catch a fish, crustacean, or large insect. This bird is noisy, with high pitched, squeaky calls.

- **NEST** A burrow in a sandy bank, with a layer of regurgitated fish scales and bones.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Africa, Middle East, India, and S.E. Asia.


FEMALE


shaggy crest in partly raised position
long, tapering bill of a plunge-diver
uptilted tail
incomplete breast band of male
long wing used in hovering flight


DISTRIBUTION

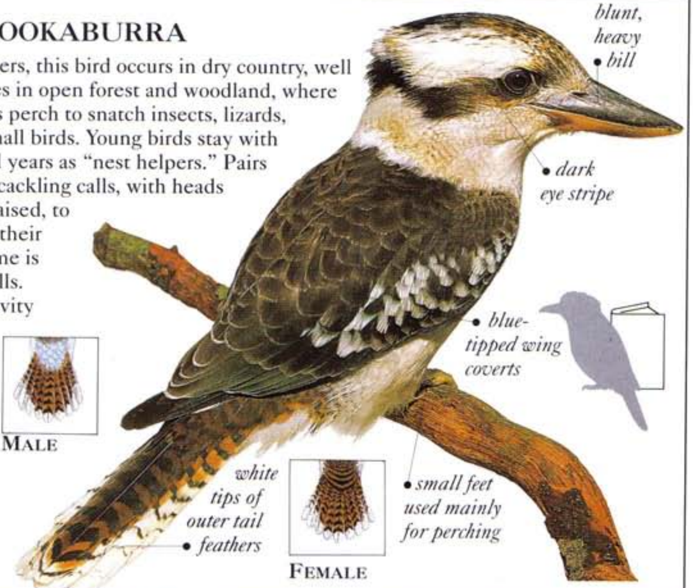
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≈ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

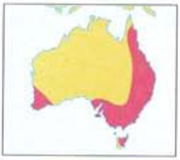
Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Dacelo novaeguineae*	Length 17½ in (45 cm)

LAUGHING KOOKABURRA

Largest of the kingfishers, this bird occurs in dry country, well away from water. It lives in open forest and woodland, where it swoops down from its perch to snatch insects, lizards, snakes, rodents, and small birds. Young birds stay with their parents for several years as "nest helpers." Pairs and their helpers utter cackling calls, with heads stretched up and tails raised, to advertise possession of their territory. The bird's name is an imitation of these calls.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a trunk or branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. and S.W. Australia.


blunt, heavy bill
dark eye stripe
blue-tipped wing coverts
white tips of outer tail feathers
small feet used mainly for perching
MALE
FEMALE

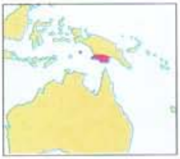

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 ✈	Migration Non-migrant

Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Dacelo tyro*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

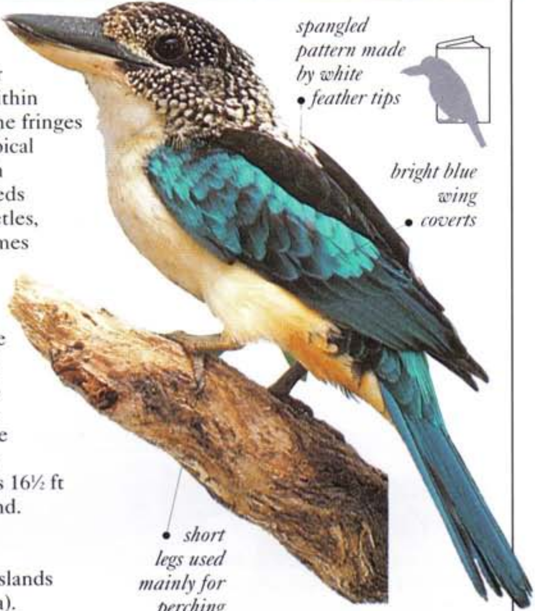
SPANGLED KOOKABURRA

This is a large, thicket-dwelling kingfisher with spectacular plumage. It is common within its range, occurring in monsoon forest, at the fringes of swamps, and in thickets in savanna (tropical grassland). Usually it perches low in a bush or tree, scanning the ground for food. It feeds on a variety of invertebrates, including beetles, ants, and stick insects. This bird is sometimes seen in small flocks, and it is possible that, like its Australian relatives, the Spangled Kookaburra has a complex social system that includes "helpers" at the nest. The call is a gurgling noise, followed by a rattling, even pitched laughing sound. Birds also utter a single, loud "kurk" note.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A hole in the side of a tree-termite nest, often as much as 16½ ft (5 m) above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands in S. New Guinea and the Aru Islands (off S.W. New Guinea).


spangled pattern made by white feather tips
bright blue wing coverts
short legs used mainly for perching

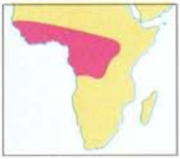
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Halcyon malimbica*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

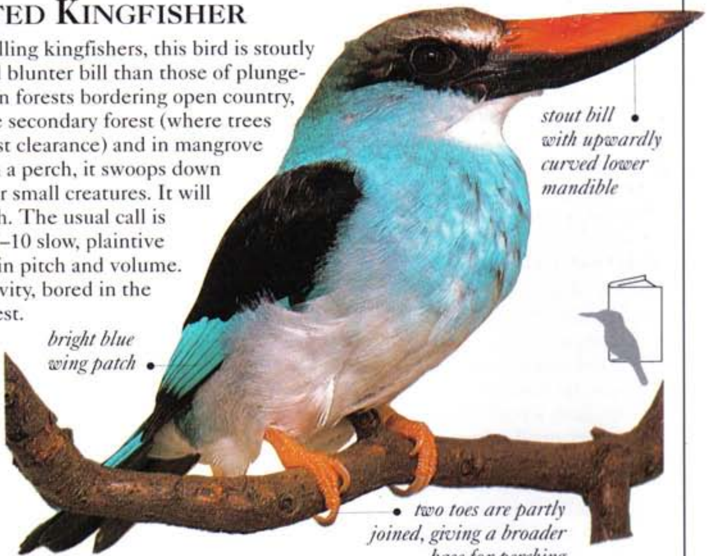
BLUE-BREASTED KINGFISHER

Typical of thicket-dwelling kingfishers, this bird is stoutly built, with a shorter and blunter bill than those of plunge-diving species. It lives in forests bordering open country, also occurring in mature secondary forest (where trees have regrown after forest clearance) and in mangrove swamps. Watching from a perch, it swoops down to take insects and other small creatures. It will occasionally dive for fish. The usual call is a far-carrying series of 7–10 slow, plaintive whistling notes, falling in pitch and volume.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity, bored in the side of a tree-termite nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical W. Africa.



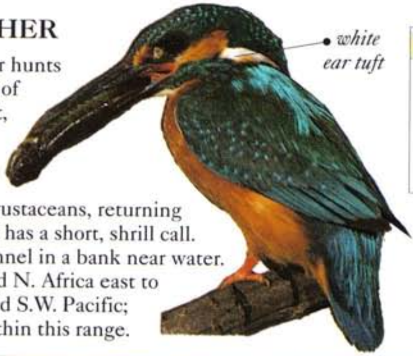
DISTRIBUTION

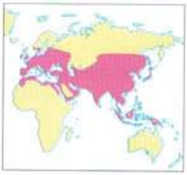

stout bill with upwardly curved lower mandible
bright blue wing patch
two toes are partly joined, giving a broader base for perching

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Alcedo atthis*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

COMMON KINGFISHER





DISTRIBUTION

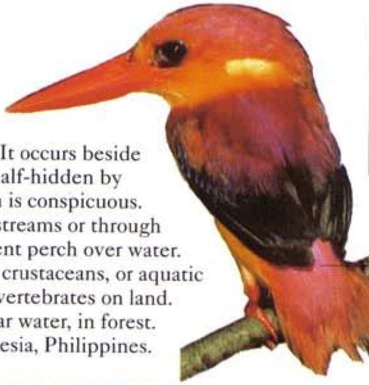
Small and active, this kingfisher hunts along streams and on the banks of rivers and lakes. It moves in fast, direct flight, revealing a bright blue rump patch. Watching from a perch, it plunges into the water to take small fish or crustaceans, returning to the perch to swallow them. It has a short, shrill call.

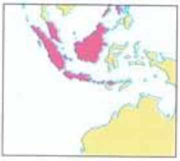
- **NEST** An upward-sloping tunnel in a bank near water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia and N. Africa east to Japan and south to Indonesia and S.W. Pacific; northern birds migrate south within this range.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ψ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Ceyx rufidorsa*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

RUFOUS-BACKED KINGFISHER





DISTRIBUTION

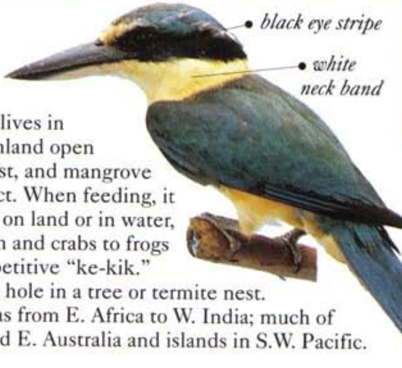
This vivid little kingfisher lives in lowland rain forests, where it is often concealed in the undergrowth. It occurs beside streams, pools, and puddles that lie half-hidden by foliage. In flight, the lilac rump patch is conspicuous. The bird flies low and rapidly along streams or through vegetation, alighting on any convenient perch over water. It plunges into water after small fish, crustaceans, or aquatic insects, or seizes insects and other invertebrates on land.

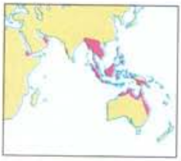
- **NEST** A deep tunnel in a bank near water, in forest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ≋ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family ALCEDINIDAE	Species *Todirhamphus chloris*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

WHITE-COLLARED KINGFISHER





DISTRIBUTION

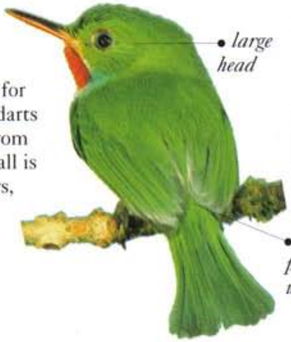
With a wide distribution in the tropics, this adaptable kingfisher lives in a number of habitats, including inland open woodland and farmland, rain forest, and mangrove swamps. Its flight is fast and direct. When feeding, it swoops from a perch to take prey on land or in water, taking any small animals from fish and crabs to frogs and lizards. The call is a loud, repetitive "ke-kik."

- **NEST** A burrow in a bank, or a hole in a tree or termite nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Isolated areas from E. Africa to W. India; much of S.E. Asia and New Guinea; N. and E. Australia and islands in S.W. Pacific.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ≋ ψ≋	Migration Partial migrant

Family TODIDAE	Species *Todus todus*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

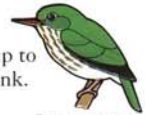
JAMAICAN TODY


large head
typical tody posture with uptilted bill

DISTRIBUTION

Small and rounded, with a plump body but small feet, this is a hunter that sits and waits for prey. It watches from an exposed perch and darts out to catch passing insects or snatch them from the undersides of overhanging leaves. The call is a short "cherek." Todies live singly or in pairs, and defend territories on wooded hillsides.

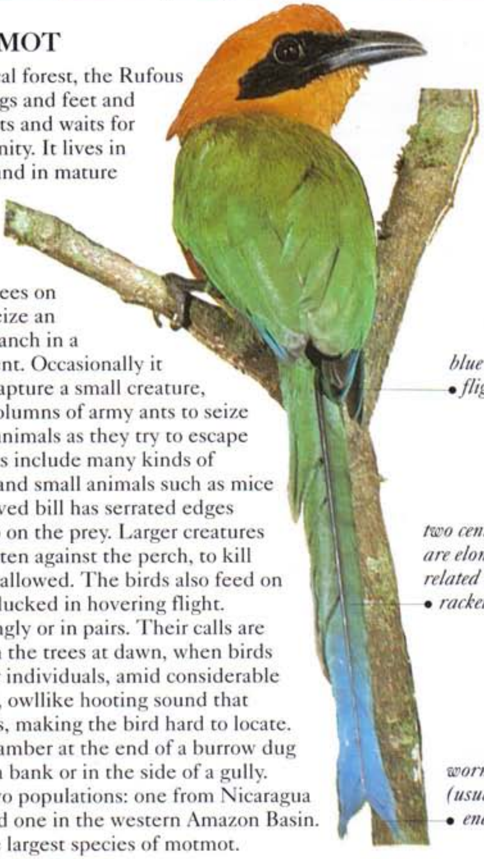
- **NEST** A small burrow up to 12 in (30 cm) into a low bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Occurs only in Jamaica.

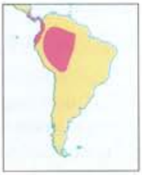

JUVENILE

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌲 ▲ ≈	Migration Non-migrant

Family MOMOTIDAE	Species *Baryphthengus martii*	Length 18 in (46 cm)

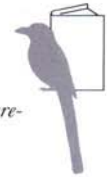
RUFOUS MOTMOT


blue edges of flight feathers
two central tail feathers are elongated. Some closely related motmots have racket-tipped tails
worn tail tip (usually square-ended)


DISTRIBUTION

A sluggish bird of tropical forest, the Rufous Motmot has the small legs and feet and large bill of a bird that sits and waits for prey to appear in its vicinity. It lives in lowland and hill forest, and in mature secondary forest (where trees have regrown after clearance). Most of the time it sits high in the trees on a branch, flying out to seize an insect from a leaf or a branch in a sudden, abrupt movement. Occasionally it drops to the ground to capture a small creature, and at times it follows columns of army ants to seize insects and other small animals as they try to escape from the ants. Prey items include many kinds of insects or invertebrates and small animals such as mice or lizards. The downcurved bill has serrated edges which ensure a firm grip on the prey. Larger creatures are carried back and beaten against the perch, to kill them before they are swallowed. The birds also feed on small fruits, which are plucked in hovering flight. Rufous Motmots live singly or in pairs. Their calls are often heard from high in the trees at dawn, when birds make contact with other individuals, amid considerable noise. Each utters a soft, owllike hooting sound that echoes through the trees, making the bird hard to locate.

- **NEST** An unlined chamber at the end of a burrow dug by the breeding pair in a bank or in the side of a gully.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two populations: one from Nicaragua south to W. Ecuador, and one in the western Amazon Basin.
- **REMARK** This is the largest species of motmot.

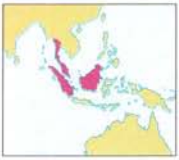


Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family MEROPIDAE	Species *Nyctyornis amictus*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

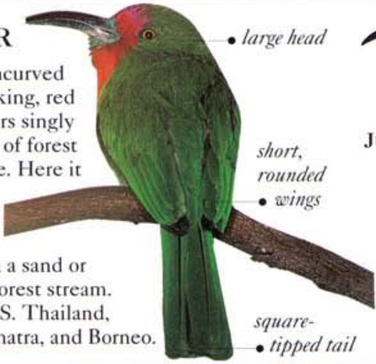
RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER

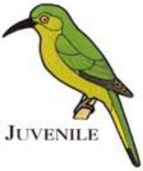
This forest-dwelling bee-eater has a downcurved bill, rounded wings, and loose, shaggy-looking, red feathers on its throat and forehead. It occurs singly or in pairs in the upper and middle foliage of forest and at the forest edge. Here it hunts insects from a perch. It has a chuckling call.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A burrow in a sand or earth bank beside a forest stream.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.



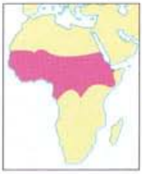


Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳 ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family MEROPIDAE	Species *Merops albicollis*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

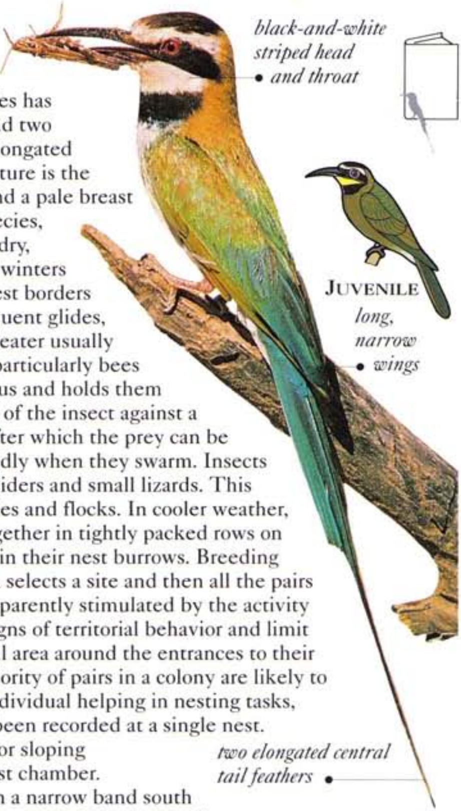
WHITE-THROATED BEE-EATER

A typical bee-eater of open country, this species has a thin, downcurved bill, long, narrow wings, and two thin tail streamers which are made up of the elongated central tail feathers. A useful identification feature is the combination of a white brow, a white throat, and a pale breast below a black neck band. This is a migrant species, alternating between two habitats. It breeds in dry, very open country with some thorn scrub, and winters in moister savanna (tropical grassland) and forest borders and clearings. Flight is light and fast, with frequent glides, either straight or in circling patterns. The bee-eater usually hunts from a low perch, taking flying insects, particularly bees and wasps. It recognizes ones that are venomous and holds them carefully in the tip of its bill, rubbing the sting of the insect against a perch or the ground to discharge the poison, after which the prey can be swallowed safely. Flying termites are taken avidly when they swarm. Insects are also captured on open ground, as well as spiders and small lizards. This bird is highly sociable and often occurs in parties and flocks. In cooler weather, and when roosting, birds are seen huddling together in tightly packed rows on perches. When breeding, however, birds roost in their nest burrows. Breeding usually takes place in large colonies. The flock selects a site and then all the pairs excavate their nest burrows simultaneously, apparently stimulated by the activity of the group as a whole. The pairs show few signs of territorial behavior and limit themselves to guarding a small area around the entrances to their burrows. In this species, a majority of pairs in a colony are likely to have at least one additional individual helping in nesting tasks, and up to six "helpers" have been recorded at a single nest.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A tunnel dug in flat or sloping sand, ending in an unlined nest chamber.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in a narrow band south of the Sahara. Winters further south in W. and C. Africa.


black-and-white striped head and throat
long, narrow wings
two elongated central tail feathers

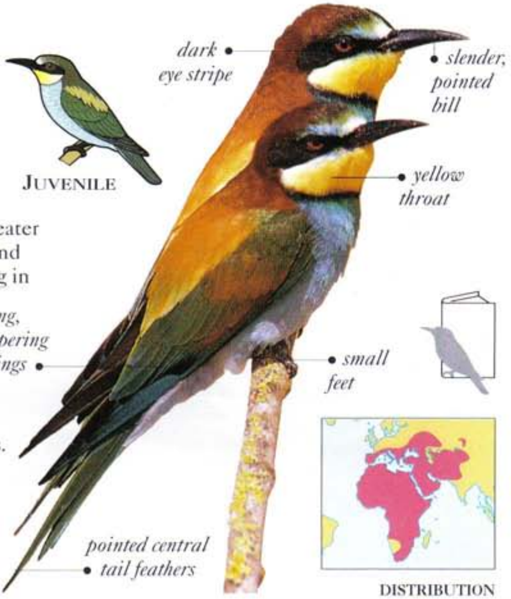
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ⌇⌇⌇ ✈ 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family MEROPIDAE	Species *Merops apiaster*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER

This bee-eater has an unmistakable pattern, being blue underneath and bronze above, with a yellow throat. However, because the bird is usually seen in flight, the whole pattern is not always visible. A vigorous, liquid "quilp" call is often the first thing to draw attention to the bird. The European Bee-eater favors open habitats with scattered trees and bushes. It spends much of its time hunting in the air, but also perches on high, bare twigs and telephone wires. The diet consists of insects, mainly bees and wasps, caught in the air. Sociable at all times of the year, birds are almost always seen in parties or flocks. Nesting colonies are located in earth banks or cliffs.

- **NEST** An unlined chamber at the end of a burrow up to 5 ft (1.5 m) long.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from S. Europe and N.W. Africa to N. India, and in South Africa. Winters in much of tropical Africa, and in W. India.


JUVENILE
dark eye stripe
slender, pointed bill
yellow throat
long, tapering wings
small feet
pointed central tail feathers

DISTRIBUTION

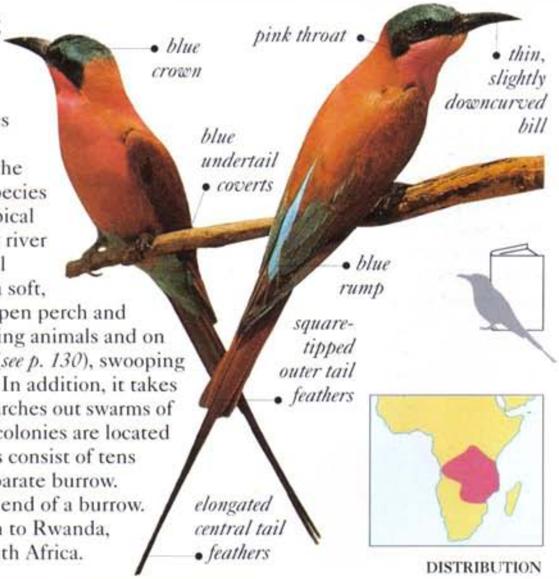
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family MEROPIDAE	Species *Merops nubicoides*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

SOUTHERN CARMINE BEE-EATER

A vividly colored scarlet bird with a turquoise head and rump, this species occurs in very large flocks. The two central tail feathers are extended in the form of narrow tail streamers. The species lives in open, semi-arid savanna (tropical and subtropical grassland) and grassy river plains. Here it hunts low in a graceful flight with frequent glides, uttering a soft, two-note call. It also hunts from an open perch and sometimes rests on the backs of grazing animals and on ostriches (*see p. 39*) or large bustards (*see p. 130*), swooping out to catch the insects they disturb. In addition, it takes insects fleeing from grass fires and searches out swarms of locusts and flying termites. Nesting colonies are located on steep cliffs beside rivers. Colonies consist of tens of thousands of pairs, each with a separate burrow.

- **NEST** An unlined chamber at the end of a burrow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Angola north to Rwanda, east to Tanzania, and south to E. South Africa.


blue crown
pink throat
thin, slightly downcurved bill
blue undertail coverts
blue rump
square-tipped outer tail feathers
elongated central tail feathers

DISTRIBUTION

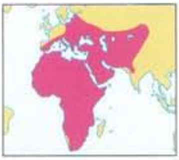
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family CORACIIDAE	Species *Coracias garrulus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

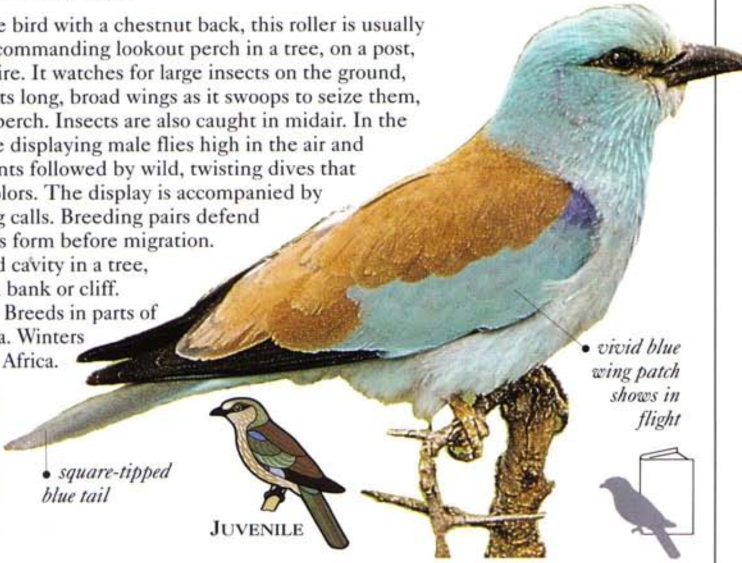
EUROPEAN ROLLER

A heavily built, blue bird with a chestnut back, this roller is usually seen hunched on a commanding lookout perch in a tree, on a post, or on a telephone wire. It watches for large insects on the ground, suddenly exposing its long, broad wings as it swoops to seize them, then returns to the perch. Insects are also caught in midair. In the breeding season, the displaying male flies high in the air and performs steep ascents followed by wild, twisting dives that show off his wing colors. The display is accompanied by croaking and rattling calls. Breeding pairs defend territories, but flocks form before migration.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a tree, or exceptionally in a bank or cliff.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in parts of Europe and N. Africa. Winters as far south as South Africa.



DISTRIBUTION



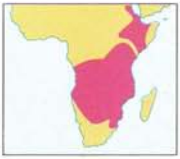
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family CORACIIDAE	Species *Coracias caudata*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

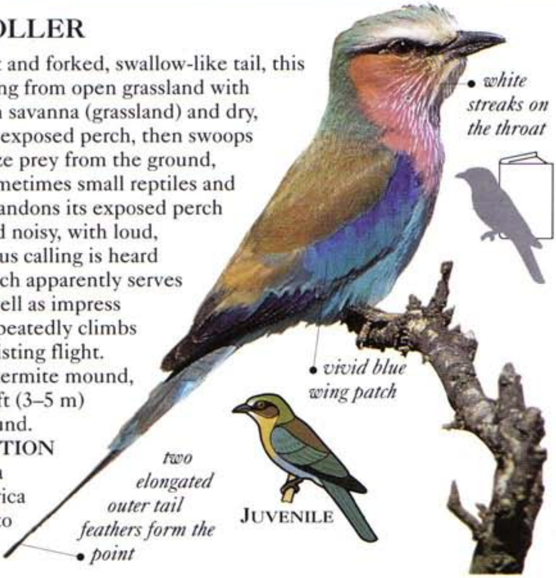
LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER

Identified by its lilac-colored breast and forked, swallow-like tail, this roller lives in dry, open places ranging from open grassland with a few bushes and trees to thornbush savanna (grassland) and dry, open woodland. It watches from an exposed perch, then swoops down on its large, blue wings to seize prey from the ground, taking large insects, spiders, and sometimes small reptiles and birds. During the midday heat it abandons its exposed perch and seeks shade. It is aggressive and noisy, with loud, squawking calls. Similar wild, raucous calling is heard during the male's aerial display, which apparently serves to advertise the pair's presence as well as impress the female. The displaying male repeatedly climbs steeply then dives in rolling and twisting flight.

- **NEST** A cavity in a dead tree or termite mound, some 10–16½ ft (3–5 m) above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Ethiopia through E. Africa and Angola into N. South Africa.



DISTRIBUTION


white streaks on the throat
vivid blue wing patch
two elongated outer tail feathers form the point
JUVENILE

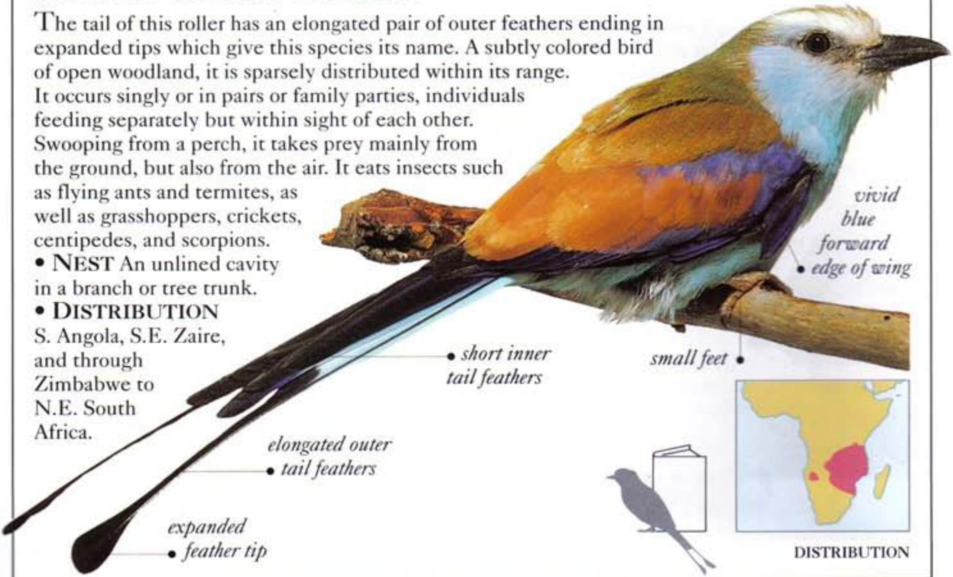
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family CORACIIDAE	Species *Coracias spatulata*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

RACKET-TAILED ROLLER

The tail of this roller has an elongated pair of outer feathers ending in expanded tips which give this species its name. A subtly colored bird of open woodland, it is sparsely distributed within its range. It occurs singly or in pairs or family parties, individuals feeding separately but within sight of each other. Swooping from a perch, it takes prey mainly from the ground, but also from the air. It eats insects such as flying ants and termites, as well as grasshoppers, crickets, centipedes, and scorpions.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a branch or tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Angola, S.E. Zaire, and through Zimbabwe to N.E. South Africa.


vivid blue forward edge of wing
short inner tail feathers
small feet
elongated outer tail feathers
expanded feather tip

DISTRIBUTION

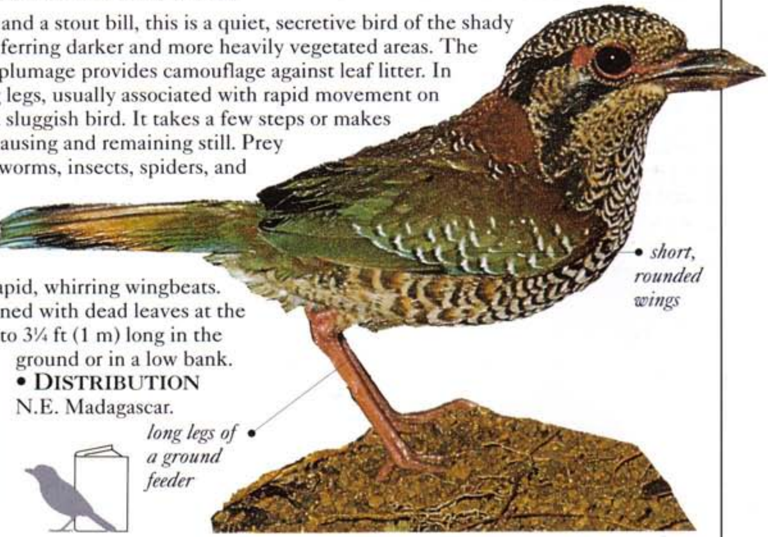
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

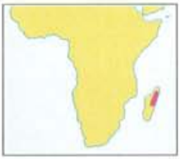
Family BRACHYPTERACIIDAE	Species *Brachypteracias squamigera*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

SCALED GROUND-ROLLER

With a heavy head and a stout bill, this is a quiet, secretive bird of the shady rain forest floor, preferring darker and more heavily vegetated areas. The scaly pattern on its plumage provides camouflage against leaf litter. In spite of having long legs, usually associated with rapid movement on the ground, this is a sluggish bird. It takes a few steps or makes a short run before pausing and remaining still. Prey items include earthworms, insects, spiders, and snails. The short, rounded wings are used only for brief flights to low perches, with rapid, whirring wingbeats.

- **NEST** A cavity lined with dead leaves at the end of a burrow up to 3¼ ft (1 m) long in the ground or in a low bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.E. Madagascar.




DISTRIBUTION

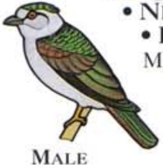
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family LEPTOSOMATIDAE	Species *Leptosomus discolor*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

CUCKOO-ROLLER

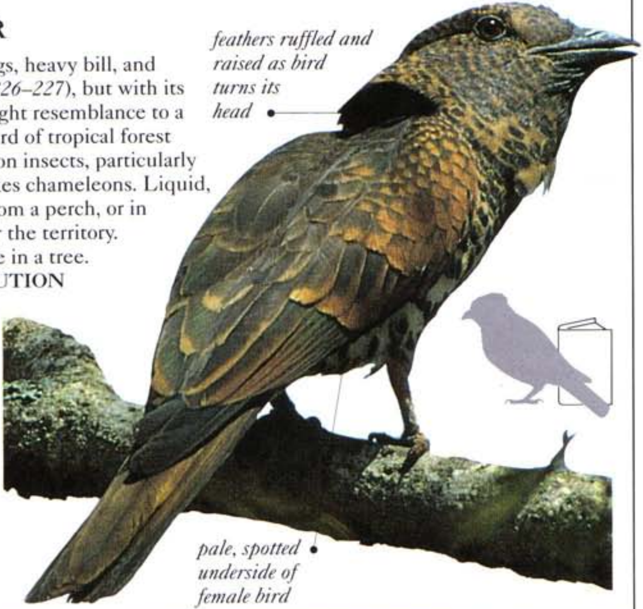
This species has the short legs, heavy bill, and large head of a roller (*see pp. 226–227*), but with its long wings and tail it has a slight resemblance to a cuckoo (*see pp. 188–191*). A bird of tropical forest and open woodland, it feeds on insects, particularly hairy caterpillars, and also takes chameleons. Liquid, whistling notes are uttered from a perch, or in circling flight over the territory.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Madagascar.



MALE

DISTRIBUTION



feathers ruffled and raised as bird turns its head
pale, spotted underside of female bird

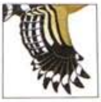
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family UPUPIDAE	Species *Upupa epops*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

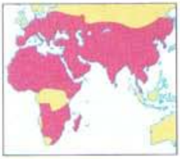
HOOPOE

Unmistakable with its bold coloring and crest, the Hoopoe has stripes that, like those of a zebra, merge into the background when seen at a distance. It feeds mostly on the ground, probing for insects and small lizards. The call is a soft, repeated "hoop" sound.

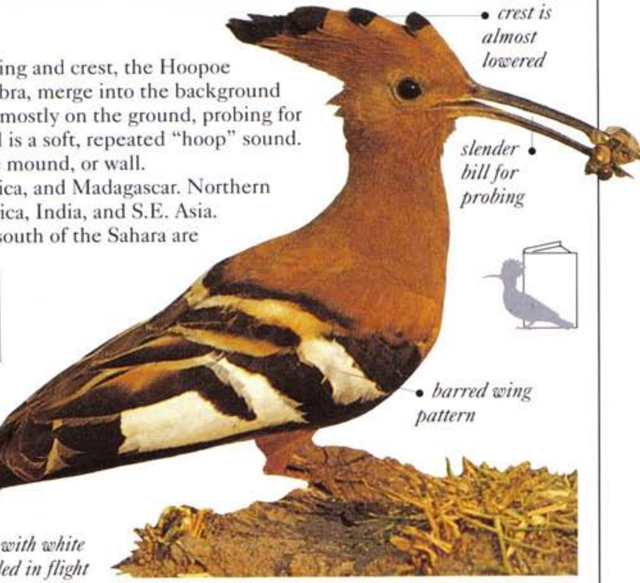
- **NEST** A hole in a tree, termite mound, or wall.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia, Africa, and Madagascar. Northern populations winter in tropical Africa, India, and S.E. Asia.
- **REMARK** Hoopoes breeding south of the Sahara are sometimes regarded as a separate species.



SPREAD WING



DISTRIBUTION



crest is almost lowered
slender bill for probing
barred wing pattern
black tail with white band revealed in flight

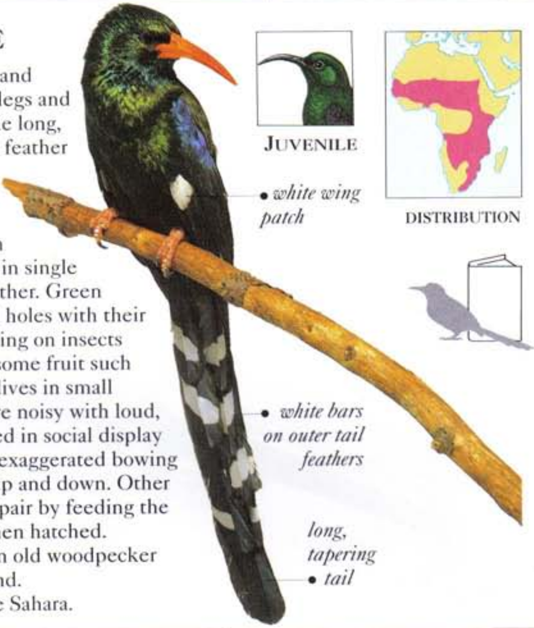
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 ✈ ▲	Migration Partial migrant

Family PHOENICULIDAE	Species *Phoeniculus purpureus*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

GREEN WOOD-HOOPOE

Adapted for clambering on tree trunks and branches, this species has short, strong legs and sharp claws for gripping bark firmly. The long, graduated tail with a white bar near the feather tips is used, either closed or spread, as a support. In flight a white wing bar is revealed. This bird occurs wherever there are large trees except in thick rain forest, individuals following each other in single file in short flights from one tree to another. Green Wood-Hoopoes probe into crevices and holes with their long, slender, slightly curved bills, feeding on insects and other invertebrates, together with some fruit such as berries. This species is sociable and lives in small parties of up to 16 individuals, which are noisy with loud, cackling calls. These are frequently used in social display in which several birds perform a rapid, exaggerated bowing movement, vigorously flexing the tail up and down. Other members of the party help a dominant pair by feeding the incubating female and the nestlings when hatched.

- **NEST** A natural cavity in a tree, or an old woodpecker hole, up to 72 ft (22 m) above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.


• *white wing patch*
• *white bars on outer tail feathers*
long, tapering • *tail*

JUVENILE

DISTRIBUTION

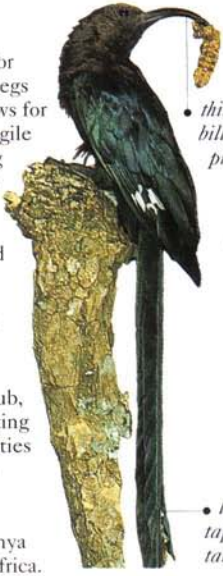
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

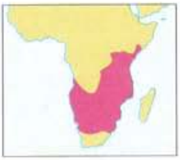
Family PHOENICULIDAE	Species *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

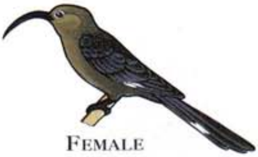
COMMON SCIMITARBILL

A slender bird, the Scimitarbill is adapted for foraging and clambering among trees. The legs are short and the feet strong, with sharp claws for maintaining a strong grip on the bark. It is agile and acrobatic and often feeds while hanging upside down. The plumage is dark, glossed with violet-blue in the male. Scimitarbills probe holes and crevices with their long, slender, curved bills in search of beetles and spiders, and also catch large insects such as preying mantises. They use their long tails to support themselves while feeding. They have rounded wings, and this species has a white wingbar that is revealed in flight. It lives in trees in woodland and dry, open scrub, usually occurring singly or in pairs, and nesting in isolated pairs. However, it often joins parties of mixed bird species feeding in woodland. The call is a series of plaintive whistles.

- **NEST** A narrow hollow in a tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Somalia and Kenya through E. Africa to Angola and southern Africa.


• *thin, curved bill for probing*
• *long, tapering tail*

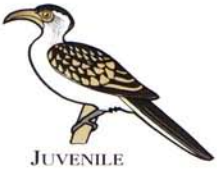

DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family BUCEROTIDAE	Species *Tockus erythrorhynchus*	Length 17½ in (45 cm)

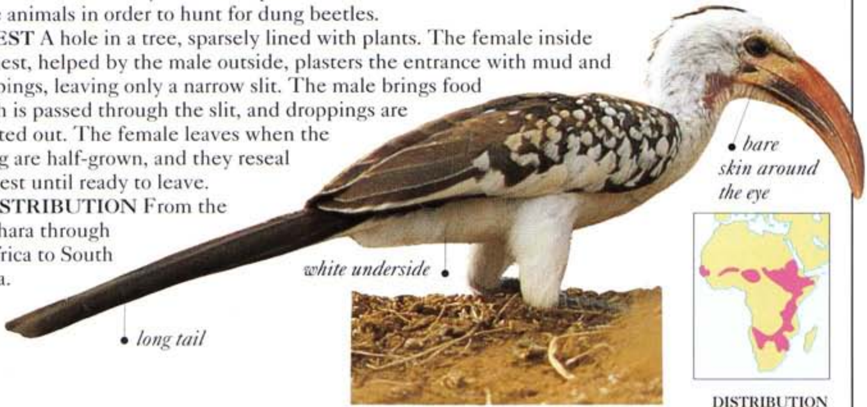
RED-BILLED HORNBILL

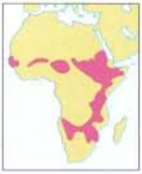


JUVENILE

This is a small, slender hornbill with a narrow, downcurved bill. Usually occurring in pairs or small parties, it gathers into flocks at an abundant food source. Red-billed Hornbills feed by hopping on the ground, searching the surface and probing holes for insects. They follow the paths of game animals in order to hunt for dung beetles.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, sparsely lined with plants. The female inside the nest, helped by the male outside, plasters the entrance with mud and droppings, leaving only a narrow slit. The male brings food which is passed through the slit, and droppings are squirted out. The female leaves when the young are half-grown, and they reseal the nest until ready to leave.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From the S. Sahara through E. Africa to South Africa.



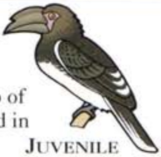


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family BUCEROTIDAE	Species *Ceratogymna bucinator*	L. 26 in (65 cm)/23 in (58 cm)

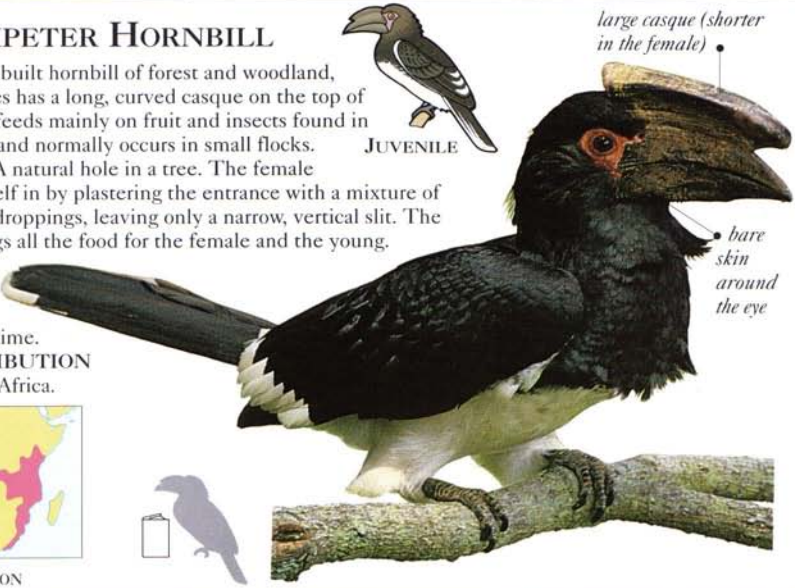
TRUMPETER HORNBILL

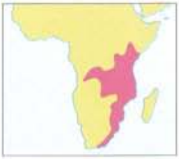


JUVENILE

A heavily built hornbill of forest and woodland, this species has a long, curved casque on the top of its bill. It feeds mainly on fruit and insects found in the trees, and normally occurs in small flocks.

- **NEST** A natural hole in a tree. The female seals herself in by plastering the entrance with a mixture of mud and droppings, leaving only a narrow, vertical slit. The male brings all the food for the female and the young. All birds leave the nest at the same time.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. and C. Africa.


large casque (shorter in the female)
bare skin around the eye



DISTRIBUTION

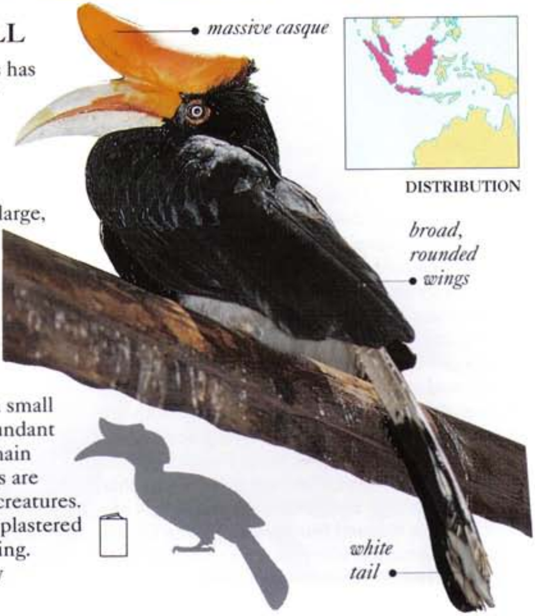
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family BUCEROTIDAE	Species *Buceros rhinoceros*	L. 49 in (125 cm)/35 in (90 cm)

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL

One of the larger hornbills, this species has a huge casque extending along most of the bill and curving upward at the end. A bird of lowland and foothill forest, it prefers the tops of high trees in areas of mature growth. In spite of its size, it moves easily among the branches with large, springy hops. It flies strongly above the trees with noisy, flapping wingbeats, frequently uttering its resonant, trumpeting call. The wings are broad and black, and in flight the white rump and white tail with a black band are revealed. Usually occurring singly or in pairs, it gathers in small parties where fruiting trees offer an abundant food source. Although fruit forms the main part of its diet, small birds and nestlings are sometimes taken, and also other small creatures.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, the entrance plastered over to leave only a narrow slit for feeding.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Asia in Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, and Java.



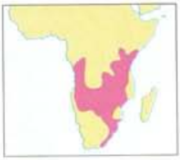
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family BUCORVIDAE	Species *Bucorvus cafer*	Length 42 in (107 cm)

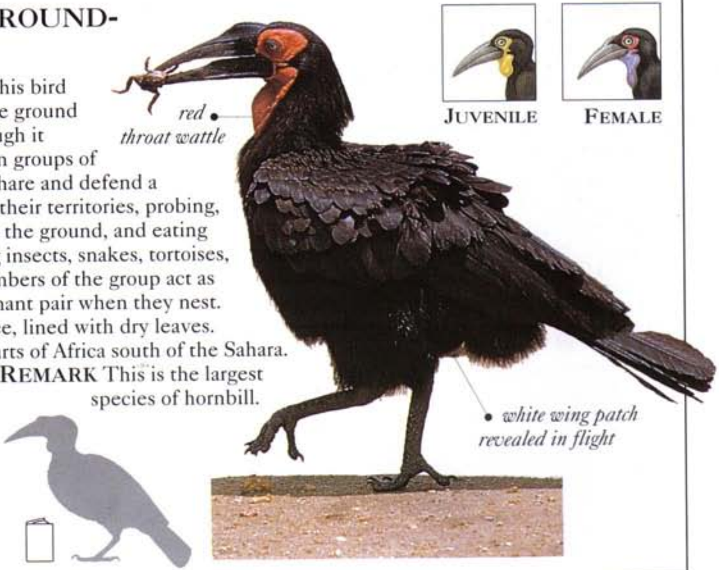
SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL

A large, dark hornbill, this bird walks and forages on the ground most of the time, although it roosts in trees. It lives in groups of up to eight birds, that share and defend a territory. Groups patrol their territories, probing, pecking, and digging at the ground, and eating small animals including insects, snakes, tortoises, and rodents. Some members of the group act as "helpers" for the dominant pair when they nest.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, lined with dry leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** This is the largest species of hornbill.



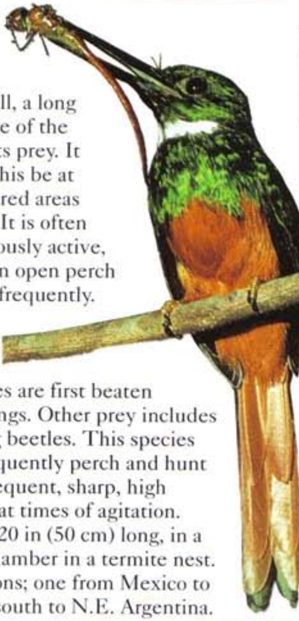
DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

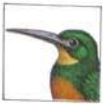
Family GALBULIDAE | Species *Galbula ruficauda* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

RUFOUS-TAILED JACAMAR

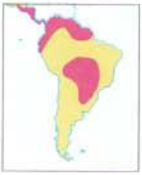


Slenderly built with a long, thin bill, a long tail, and short, weak legs, this is one of the birds that sits and waits to snatch its prey. It lives in lower vegetation whether this be at forest edges, in clearings, or in cleared areas where trees have begun to regrow. It is often seen along streams. Alert and nervously active, the Rufous-tailed Jacamar sits on an open perch with bill uptilted, moving its head frequently. It flies out to catch passing insects before returning to the same perch, or to one nearby. Food is swallowed whole, but big butterflies are first beaten against the perch to remove the wings. Other prey includes dragonflies, bees, wasps, and flying beetles. This species lives in pairs, and the two birds frequently perch and hunt close to one another. They utter frequent, sharp, high pitched calls that merge into a trill at times of agitation.

- **NEST** An unlined burrow up to 20 in (50 cm) long, in a bank, an upturned tree root, or a chamber in a termite nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two populations; one from Mexico to N. Brazil, the other from C. Brazil south to N.E. Argentina.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

• *two toes forward, two back (outer toes are reversed)*

• *tail is glossy green above, with pale orange outer feathers below*

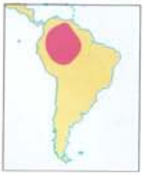
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family BUCCONIDAE | Species *Bucco macrodactylus* | Length 5½ in (14 cm)

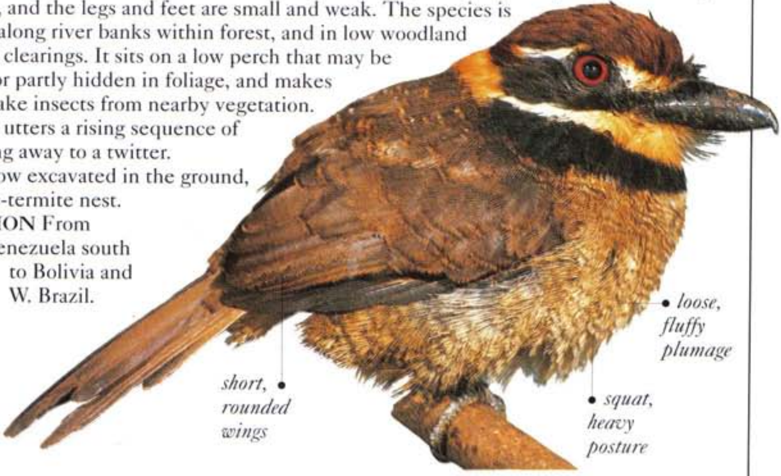
CHESTNUT-CAPPED PUFFBIRD

A squat bird with a large head, this species has lax, fluffy-looking plumage from which its name is derived. The bill is stout, with bristles surrounding the base to help in trapping insects, and the legs and feet are small and weak. The species is found in forest, along river banks within forest, and in low woodland that grows up in clearings. It sits on a low perch that may be either exposed or partly hidden in foliage, and makes short flights to take insects from nearby vegetation. Usually quiet, it utters a rising sequence of short notes, dying away to a twitter.

- **NEST** A burrow excavated in the ground, or cut into a tree-termite nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Colombia and Venezuela south to Bolivia and W. Brazil.



DISTRIBUTION



• *loose, fluffy plumage*

short, rounded wings •

• *squat, heavy posture*

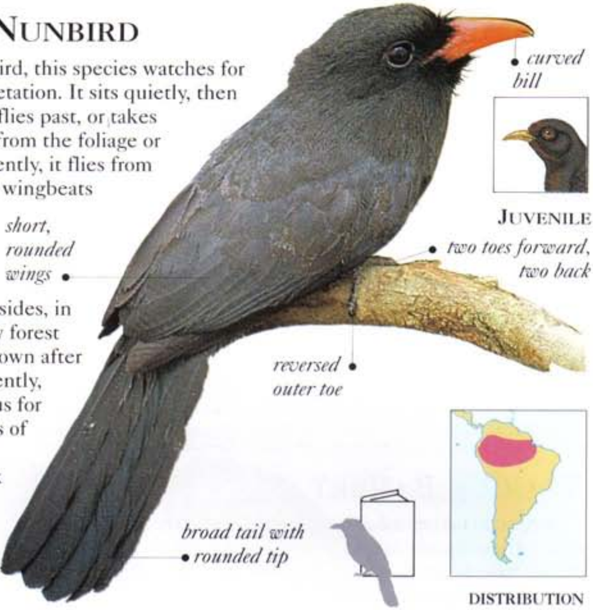
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family BUCCONIDAE	Species *Monasa nigrifrons*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

BLACK-FRONTED NUNBIRD

A sleek and alert-looking puffbird, this species watches for prey at all levels within the vegetation. It sits quietly, then swoops to snatch an insect as it flies past, or takes insects and other invertebrates from the foliage or from the ground. Moving frequently, it flies from perch to perch with a few, rapid wingbeats followed by a glide. At times it follows troops of monkeys for the insects they disturb. It occurs singly, in pairs, or in small groups and is seen at riversides, in swampy forest, and in secondary forest (areas where the trees have regrown after clearance). The birds call frequently, and at times whole groups chorus for several minutes. Some members of groups act as nesting "helpers."

- **NEST** A burrow cut in a bank or at an angle into the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** South America east of the Andes in Colombia, Peru, N. Bolivia, and Brazil.


curved bill
JUVENILE
two toes forward, two back
short, rounded wings
reversed outer toe
broad tail with rounded tip
DISTRIBUTION

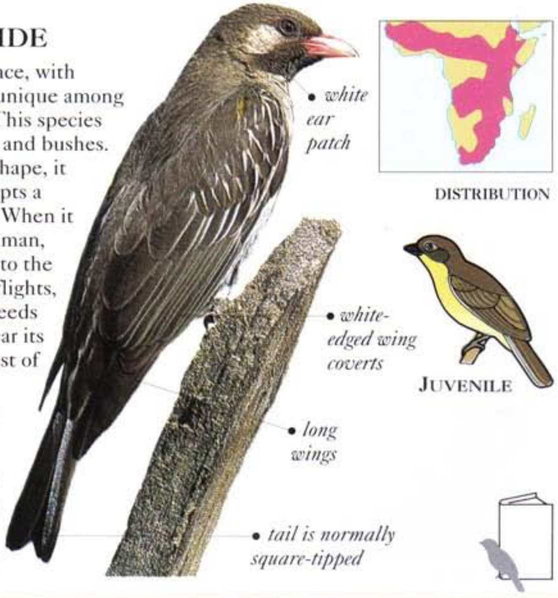
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 〰 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family INDICATORIDAE	Species *Indicator indicator*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

GREATER HONEYGUIDE

Although unspectacular in appearance, with dull plumage, the honeyguides are unique among birds in their ability to digest wax. This species occurs in open forest or mixed trees and bushes. Resembling a songbird in size and shape, it feeds mainly on insects but also adopts a specialized strategy to procure wax. When it has located a bees' nest it leads a human, honeybadger, baboon, or mongoose to the nest with chattering calls and short flights, waits for it to be opened, and later feeds on the wax and brood. It does not rear its own young but lays an egg in the nest of another bird species. The newly hatched honeyguide has temporary, sharp hooks on the tip of its bill for killing the nestlings of the host.

- **NEST** This bird parasitizes other species' nests. A single egg is laid in the nest of an insect-eating bird.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa, from Senegal to the Cape.


DISTRIBUTION
white ear patch
white-edged wing coverts
JUVENILE
long wings
tail is normally square-tipped

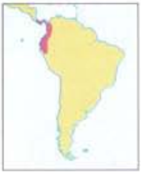
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ✈	Migration Non-migrant

Family CAPITONIDAE	Species *Eubucco bourcierii*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

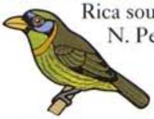
RED-HEADED BARBET

This small barbet feeds deliberately in the middle and lower branches of mountain forest, probing into dead leaf clusters and sometimes hanging upside down to feed on insects and fruit. Unlike most barbets, it is usually silent.

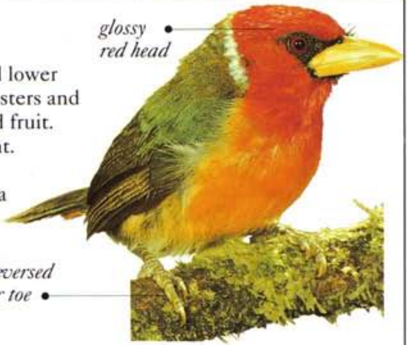
- **NEST** A cavity in a rotten tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Costa Rica south to N. Peru.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE



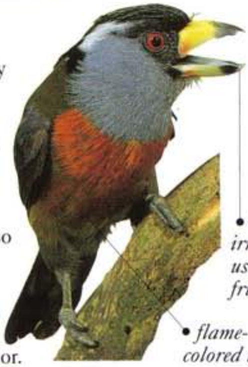
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

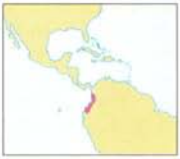
Family CAPITONIDAE	Species *Semnornis ramphastinus*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

TOUCAN BARBET

A mountain barbet inhabiting the permanently misty, high-altitude "cloud forests" of the Andes, this species has a long-bodied look. It often hops along branches in a forward-leaning attitude, raising its tail for balance as it turns quickly. Single birds or pairs join mixed-species flocks that feed at all levels in the forest. Toucan Barbets feed mainly on fruit, also taking insects, other invertebrates, and small creatures such as lizards. The call is a loud honk, and pairs often perform duets.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a tree hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. Colombia, W. Ecuador.





DISTRIBUTION

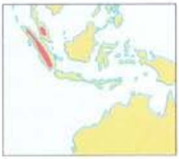
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family CAPITONIDAE	Species *Psilopogon pyrolophus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

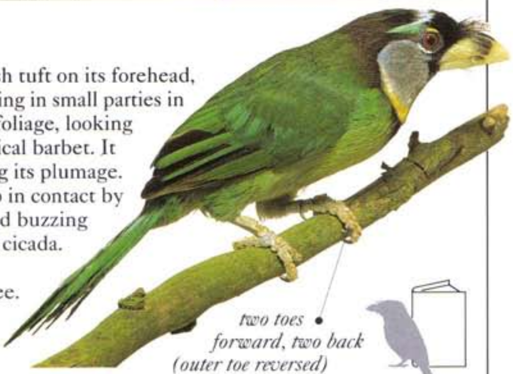
FIRE-TUFTED BARBET

Inconspicuously colored except for the reddish tuft on its forehead, this is a bird of mountain forest. Usually occurring in small parties in tall trees, it clambers about among vines and foliage, looking more like a parrot (*see pp. 169–185*) than a typical barbet. It feeds greedily on small fruits, at times staining its plumage. Birds are quiet but keep in contact by uttering soft whistles and buzzing notes like the noise of a cicada.

- **NEST** Unknown; probably a cavity in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountains in Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.



DISTRIBUTION



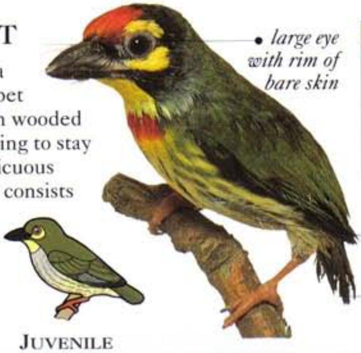
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

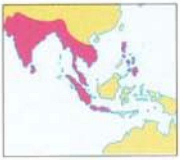
Family CAPITONIDAE	Species *Megalaima haemacephala*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

COPPERSMITH BARBET

A rapidly repeated "tonk" note, like a hammer striking metal, gives this barbet its name. It occurs singly or in pairs, in wooded areas and in farmland with trees, tending to stay among the leaves, where it is inconspicuous except for its frequent song. The diet consists mainly of fruit. Flight is rapid and direct, with steady wingbeats.

- **NEST** A cavity in a branch or post.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Pakistan east to China and the Philippines, and south as far as W. Indonesia.


large eye with rim of bare skin
streaked underside
short tail
JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

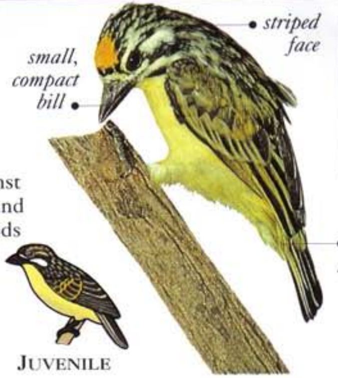
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

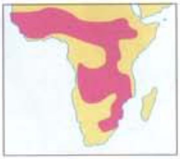
Family CAPITONIDAE	Species *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

YELLOW-FRONTED TINKERBIRD

This tiny barbet of the treetops might pass unnoticed except for its rhythmic, clinking "poop" note. Single birds or pairs are seen defending territories against others of their species. Living in woodland and grassland with scattered trees, it feeds on berries, also searching along twigs and in leaf clusters for small insects.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa, from Senegal to N. South Africa.


striped face
small, compact bill
yellow underside
JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

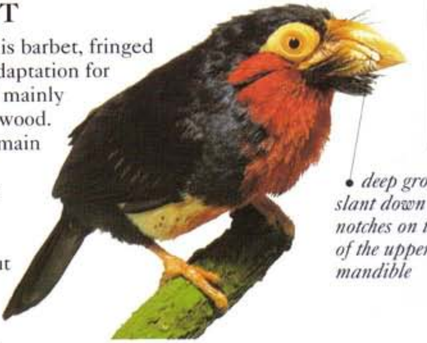
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

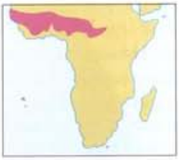
Family CAPITONIDAE	Species *Lybius dubius*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

BEARDED BARBET

The massive, ridged bill of this barbet, fringed with whiskers, looks like an adaptation for feeding on insects but is used mainly for cutting nest holes in dead wood. Fruit, chiefly wild figs, is the main food, with some insects. The species lives in grassland with scattered trees, extending into woodland and farmland.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity cut into a dead tree or stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa, in areas adjacent to S. Sahara.

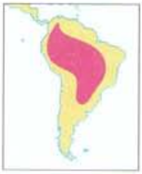

deep grooves slant down to form notches on the edge of the upper mandible


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family RAMPHASTIDAE	Species *Pteroglossus castanotis*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

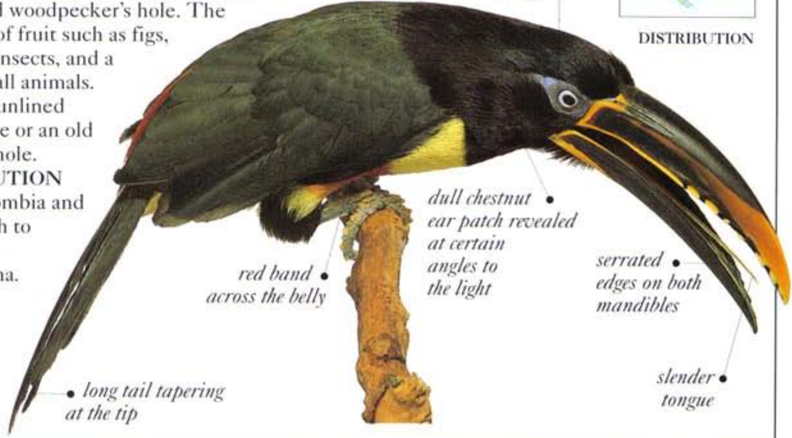
CHESTNUT-EARED ARACARI



DISTRIBUTION

The long, slim, gently curved bill of this species, with its distinctly serrated edges, is typical of the aracaris. Living in forest and forest edge, this slenderly built bird is active and sociable. It usually occurs in small parties that hunt together, moving in single file in short flights through the trees, and roosting huddled in a cavity such as an old woodpecker's hole. The diet consists of fruit such as figs, tree catkins, insects, and a variety of small animals.

- **NEST** An unlined cavity in a tree or an old woodpecker hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Colombia and Ecuador south to Bolivia and N.E. Argentina.


bare blue skin around the eye
dull chestnut ear patch revealed at certain angles to the light
serrated edges on both mandibles
red band across the belly
slender tongue
long tail tapering at the tip

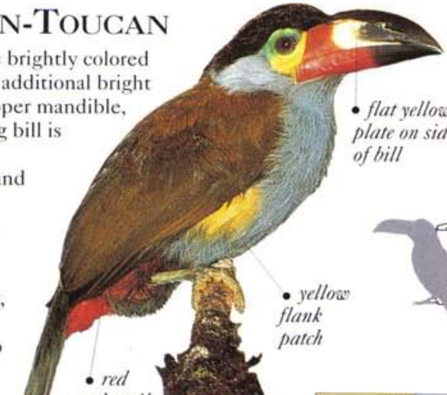
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

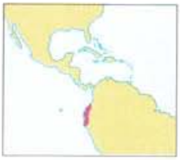
Family RAMPHASTIDAE	Species *Andigena laminirostris*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

PLATE-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN

The most obvious feature of toucans is the brightly colored and massive bill. In this species there is an additional bright yellow horny plate on the outside of the upper mandible, the purpose of which is unknown. The long bill is used to help the bird reach for food, which consists mainly of fruit, with some insects and other small creatures. This species has the typical coloring of a mountain-toucan, with dark upperparts and mainly blue-gray underside, and the plumage is fine, with a hairy texture. It is a bird of mountain forest, occurring in pairs or small groups. At times these groups join flocks of mixed species to move through the forest looking for fruit and eating the insects that they disturb in the process. The usual call is a rising series of querulous, whining notes, uttered while the bird is hidden in foliage. The species also has a loud, rattling call.

- **NEST** A natural hole in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. Andes in S.W. Colombia and W. Ecuador.


flat yellow plate on side of bill
yellow flank patch
red undertail coverts
reddish tail tip

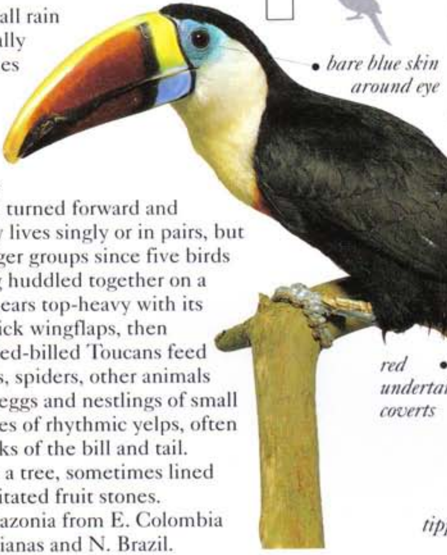


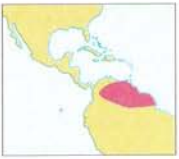
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family RAMPHASTIDAE	Species *Ramphastos tucanus*	Length 21 in (53 cm)

RED-BILLED TOUCAN




DISTRIBUTION

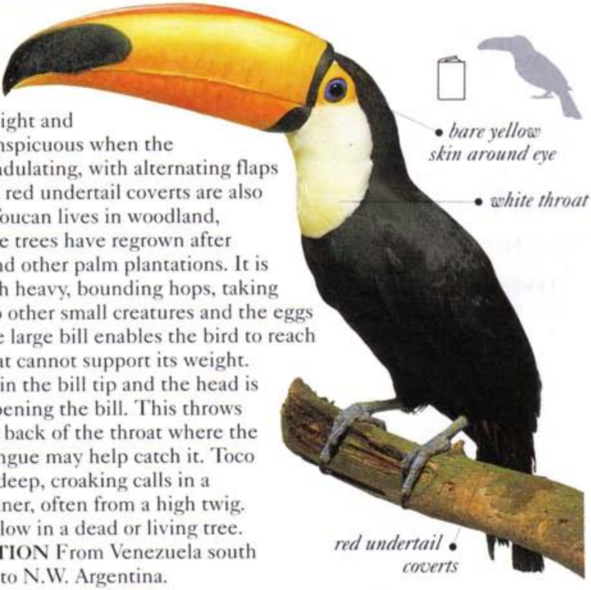
This large toucan inhabits tall rain forest and forest edges, usually staying in the higher branches and foliage canopy of mature trees. Like other toucans, it roosts by squatting with its head turned backward, resting its bill on its back, with the tail turned forward and resting on the bill. It usually lives singly or in pairs, but at times it may gather in larger groups since five birds have been reported roosting huddled together on a branch. Seen in flight it appears top-heavy with its large bill; it makes a few quick wingflaps, then glides along on set wings. Red-billed Toucans feed on fruit, tree catkins, insects, spiders, other animals such as lizards, snakes, and eggs and nestlings of small birds. The call is a loud series of rhythmic yelps, often accompanied by upward jerks of the bill and tail.

- **NEST** A natural cavity in a tree, sometimes lined unintentionally with regurgitated fruit stones.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Amazonia from E. Colombia and E. Venezuela to the Guianas and N. Brazil.

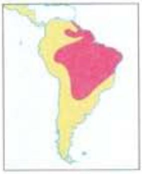
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳 ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family RAMPHASTIDAE	Species *Ramphastos toco*	Length 24 in (60 cm)

TOCO TOUCAN



The huge, unwieldy bill of this toucan gives the bird an unbalanced look, but the bill is light and hollow in structure. It is very conspicuous when the bird is seen in flight, which is undulating, with alternating flaps and glides. The white rump and red undertail coverts are also noticeable in flight. The Toco Toucan lives in woodland, secondary forest (areas where the trees have regrown after forest clearance), and coconut and other palm plantations. It is seen moving along branches with heavy, bounding hops, taking mainly fruit and insects, but also other small creatures and the eggs and nestlings of small birds. The large bill enables the bird to reach food on the end of thin twigs that cannot support its weight. Food is seized in the bill tip and the head is tossed back, opening the bill. This throws the food to the back of the throat where the long, bristly tongue may help catch it. Toco Toucans utter deep, croaking calls in a deliberate manner, often from a high twig.


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A hollow in a dead or living tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Venezuela south through Brazil to N.W. Argentina.

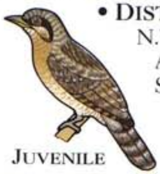
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PICIDAE	Species *Jynx torquilla*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

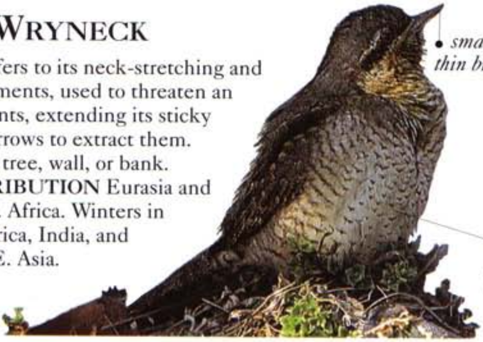
EURASIAN WRYNECK

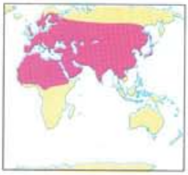
This bird's name refers to its neck-stretching and head-twisting movements, used to threaten an enemy. It feeds on ants, extending its sticky tongue into their burrows to extract them.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, wall, or bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia and N.W. Africa. Winters in Africa, India, and S.E. Asia.



JUVENILE





DISTRIBUTION

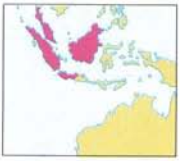
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family PICIDAE	Species *Sasia abnormis*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

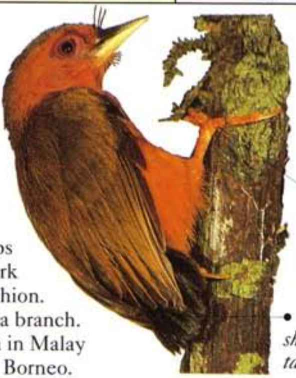
RUFOUS PICULET

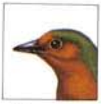
Tiny and active, this woodpecker sometimes looks more like a small passerine when seen feeding and foraging. It lives in undergrowth in forests, clambering and hopping among branches, leaves, and twigs, and searching the ground litter, taking ants and other small insects. When feeding in bamboo and small trees, it taps the surface and probes the bark in more usual woodpecker fashion.

- **NEST** A hole excavated in a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Asia in Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, and Borneo.



DISTRIBUTION





FEMALE

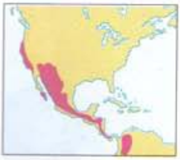
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

Family PICIDAE	Species *Melanerpes formicivorus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

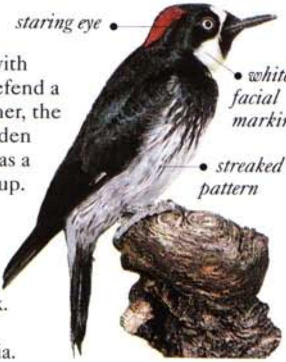
ACORN WOODPECKER

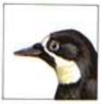
This sociable woodpecker has a close association with oak trees. It lives in groups of up to 12 birds that defend a shared territory and nest communally. In late summer, the birds bore rows of holes into trees, fences, and wooden buildings, fixing an acorn in each hole to be stored as a future food supply for the group. Insects are also eaten in the summer, and some other nuts and fruits in winter. The call is a raucous double note.

- **NEST** A hole cut in a trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From W. North America to Colombia.



DISTRIBUTION





FEMALE

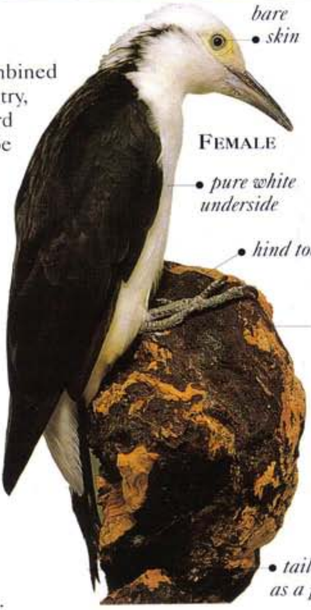
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PICIDAE	Species *Melanerpes candidus*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

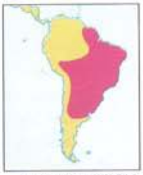
WHITE WOODPECKER

The vividly pied plumage of this species, combined with the fact that it is often seen in open country, make the bird very conspicuous. The male bird (not illustrated) has yellow patches on the nape and belly. Habitats range from semi-open forest and forest edges to open grassland with trees. For a woodpecker, this species has unusually direct, strong flight (*see p. 16*). When crossing open country, it tends to pause and rest periodically in the tops of dead trees. White Woodpeckers usually occur in small parties, but it is not known whether these are families. The birds are often seen climbing up trees, tapping and searching for insects, but their main food is fruit, and the species has become a pest at orange groves. White Woodpeckers also eat seeds such as grain. Captive specimens show a fondness for honey, which suggests that wild birds may take nectar from flowers.

- **NEST** A hole excavated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. South America from Surinam south through Brazil to N. Argentina.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

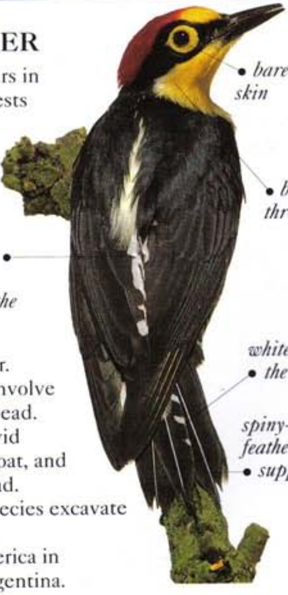
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳 🌾	Migration Non-migrant

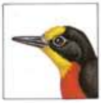
Family PICIDAE	Species *Melanerpes flavifrons*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

YELLOW-FRONTED WOODPECKER

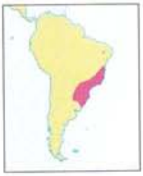
Unusual in being a fruit-eater, this woodpecker occurs in forest, open woodland, and even in places where forests have been cleared, leaving only a few scattered trees. Although observations in the wild have been limited, the bird is fairly common within its range and is thought to be very sociable. It forages in the trees in small parties, searching for fruit, staying mainly in the branches, sometimes feeding on berries from tall herbaceous plants. The behavior of aviary-kept specimens suggests that Yellow-fronted Woodpeckers also eat insects, and their liking for nectar-solution indicates that wild birds may probe flowers for nectar. Courtship and defensive displays involve raising, lowering, and turning the head. These movements show off the vivid yellow eye rings, forehead, and throat, and the bright scarlet cap on a dark head.

- **NEST** Unknown, but related species excavate a cavity in a tree trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. South America in S.E. Brazil, Paraguay, and N.E. Argentina.


bare skin
bright yellow throat
white streak down the back
white barring on the tail feathers
spiny-tipped tail feathers for support



FEMALE



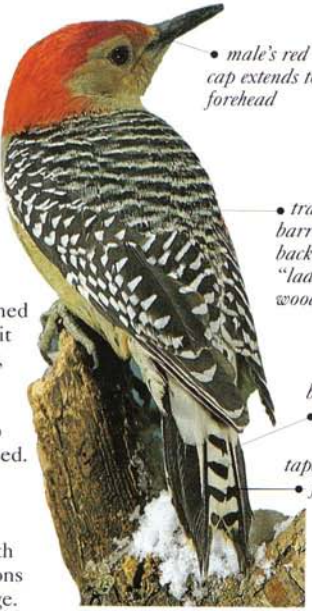
DISTRIBUTION

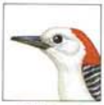
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳🌳 🌳 ✈	Migration Non-migrant

Family **PICIDAE** | Species *Melanerpes carolinus* | Length 9½ in (24 cm)

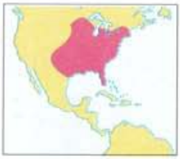
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

This species is one of the "ladder-backed" woodpeckers, which have black-and-white barring across the back. It has a large area of red on the head and nape, which is an easier identification mark than the more limited red flush on the belly. In flight, a white rump and a short, white wingbar are revealed. The species is widespread in open woodland and also occurs in parks and suburbs. It is usually seen in pairs, but family groups remain together for a short period after breeding. The diet consists of insects, obtained by hacking at dead and dying wood, and birds visit garden birdfeeders in winter. Feeding in this way, birds make good use of the tail, with its stiffened feather shafts, as a support. The splayed, sharp-clawed feet help the birds to cling firmly to where they feed. The call is a rolling "churr."


• male's red cap extends to forehead
• transverse barring on the back, typical of the "ladder-backed" woodpeckers
barring on • the tail
tapering, spiny • feather tips



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

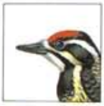
- **NEST** An unlined hole, excavated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. North America. Northern populations winter south within this range.

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳🌳 | Migration Partial migrant

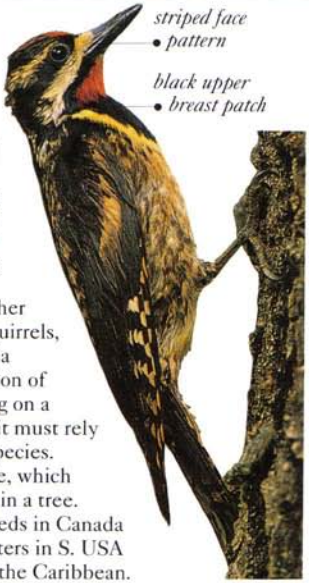
Family **PICIDAE** | Species *Sphyrapicus varius* | Length 8½ in (22 cm)

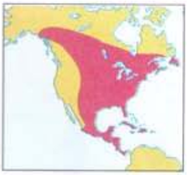
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Tapping into a tree produces more than just burrowing insects, and this species of woodpecker makes holes in the bark in order to feed on the sugary sap. The bird drills grid-like rows of holes into any suitable tree and renews them each year. Broadleaved trees such as maples, fruit trees, birches, and poplars are used, but other tree species are also tested, including conifers. A series of small holes is chiseled into the tree, and after a short while the bird returns to drink the oozing sap. The sapsucker also eats many of the insects attracted by the sap. Other animals also take the opportunity to drink the sap, including squirrels, warblers, and hummingbirds. This bird is mainly silent but has a mewing call note, and advertises possession of its territory in spring by a rapid drumming on a resonant, dead branch. Possibly because it must rely on sap rising in spring, this is a migrant species.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

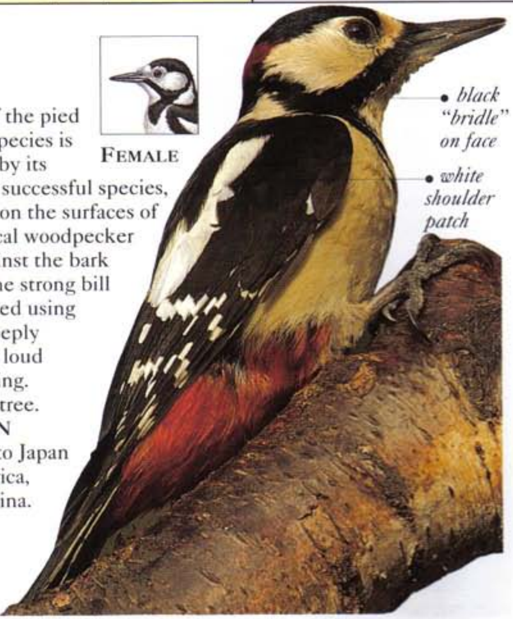
- **NEST** An unlined hole, which is excavated by the bird, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada and N. and E. USA. Winters in S. USA south to C. Panama, and the Caribbean.

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌲🌲🌲 🌳🌳 | Migration Migrant

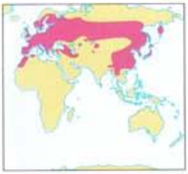
Family PICIDAE	Species *Dendrocopos major*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

The commonest and most widespread of the pied woodpeckers of Eurasia and Africa, this species is identified by a white shoulder patch and by its separated cheek and neck patches. It is a successful species, found in most areas with trees. It forages on the surfaces of tree trunks and branches, moving in typical woodpecker fashion with head up, tail tip pressed against the bark as a support, and with the feet spread. The strong bill is used to pry up bark, and holes are probed using the sticky tongue. The bird also hacks deeply into rotten wood for insect grubs. It has a loud "chik" call and drums on branches in spring.


FEMALE

- **NEST** An unlined hole excavated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe east to Japan and south to N. Africa, N.E. India, and China.

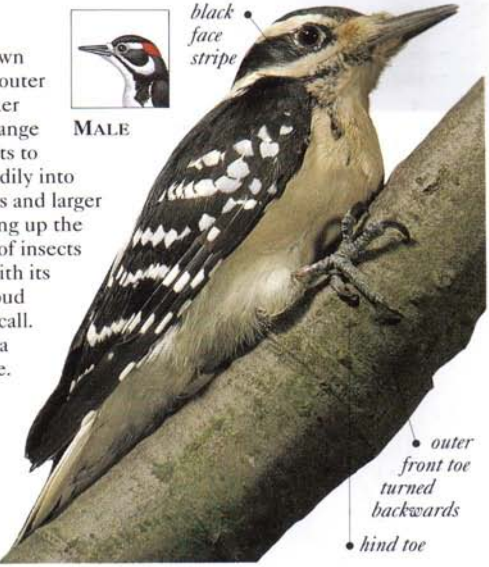

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌲 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

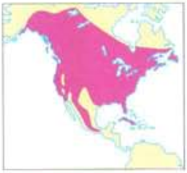
Family PICIDAE	Species *Picoides villosus*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

HAIRY WOODPECKER

Identified by the white band stretching down the middle of the back and the pure white outer tail feathers, this is a widespread woodpecker of North American woodland. Its habitats range from dense coniferous or broadleaved forests to open woodland, but it does not venture readily into farmland and suburbs. Climbing tree trunks and larger branches, it explores the bark of trees, prying up the bark or hacking into rotten wood in search of insects and wood-boring grubs, which it extracts with its very long, barb-tipped tongue. It utters a loud "peek" note and also a slurred, whinnying call.


MALE

- **NEST** A hole excavated by the birds, in a dead or decaying tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Alaska and Canada to Panama.


DISTRIBUTION

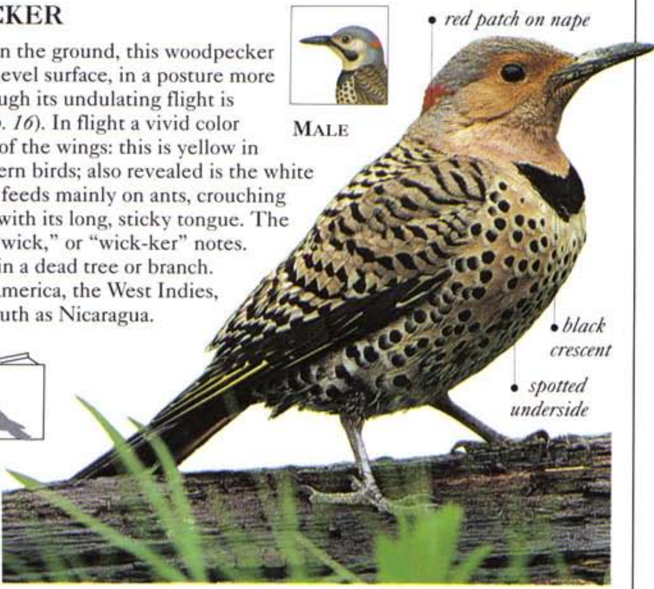
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌲	Migration Non-migrant

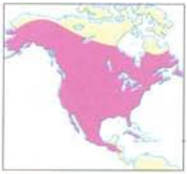
Family PICIDAE	Species *Colaptes auratus*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

NORTHERN FLICKER

Adapted to feeding mainly on the ground, this woodpecker spends most of its time on a level surface, in a posture more like that of a passerine, although its undulating flight is typical of a woodpecker (*see p. 16*). In flight a vivid color is revealed on the underside of the wings: this is yellow in eastern birds and red in western birds; also revealed is the white rump. The Northern Flicker feeds mainly on ants, crouching and probing into the ground with its long, sticky tongue. The calls include loud, repeated "wick," or "wick-ker" notes.

- **NEST** A cavity excavated in a dead tree or branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North America, the West Indies, and Central America as far south as Nicaragua. Northern populations winter in the south of this range.





DISTRIBUTION

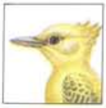
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family PICIDAE	Species *Celeus flavus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

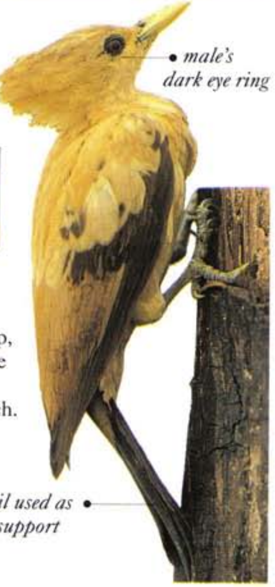
CREAM-COLORED WOODPECKER

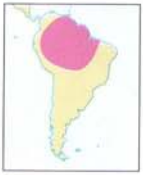
This species is unmistakable for its pale, creamy-yellow color and its short, tapering, bushy crest, which is permanently raised and makes the bird seem large-headed. It is a rather uncommon bird. Habitats include moist forests of four main types: seasonally flooded forests; swampy forests; swampy secondary forests (where trees have regrown after clearance); and riverside forests in grassland regions. It specializes in feeding on tree ants, breaking open their thin, papery nests, and leaving the hard, mud nests of tree-termites. Feeding mainly in the middle levels of forest vegetation, it also takes other insects from trees and branches, and some fruit. Several birds call in a group, uttering a loud "wheyah" call, usually repeated several times. There is also a "pueer" call which is repeated four times, the final two notes being shorter and falling in pitch.

- **NEST** Unknown; probably a hole in a tree, excavated by the birds.
- **DISTRIBUTION** South America east of the Andes, from Colombia and the Guianas south to Peru, Bolivia, and E. Brazil.



FEMALE



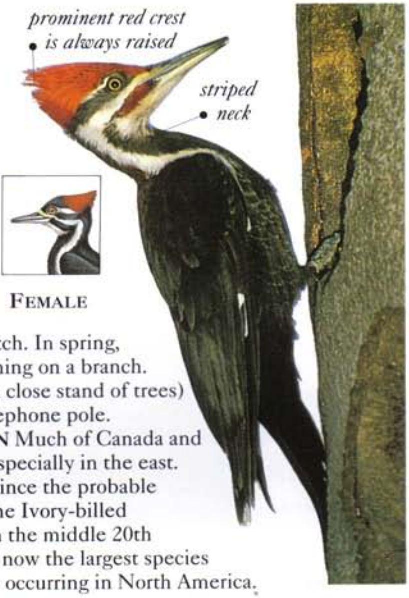


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

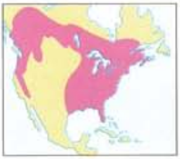
Family PICIDAE	Species *Dryocopus pileatus*	Length 16½ in (42 cm)

PILEATED WOODPECKER


prominent red crest is always raised
striped neck
FEMALE

This large, black woodpecker with white neck stripes and a scarlet crest is unmistakable. Its flight is strong and direct. The species occurs mainly in forest but is increasingly found in parkland and woodlots. A liking for insects that bore into dead wood causes it to excavate deep cavities in tree trunks. It is also attracted down to the foot of a tree or a dead trunk to seek carpenter ants, which tunnel into the wood from the ground upward. The hammering made by the feeding birds is a noticeable sound in quiet woodland. Birds also take some nuts, acorns, and small wild fruits. The call is a repeated "wuck-a-wuck-a," rising and falling in pitch. In spring, the male also advertises his territory by rapid drumming on a branch.

- **NEST** A hole excavated in a tree trunk (often in a close stand of trees) or in a dead tree stump or a telephone pole.

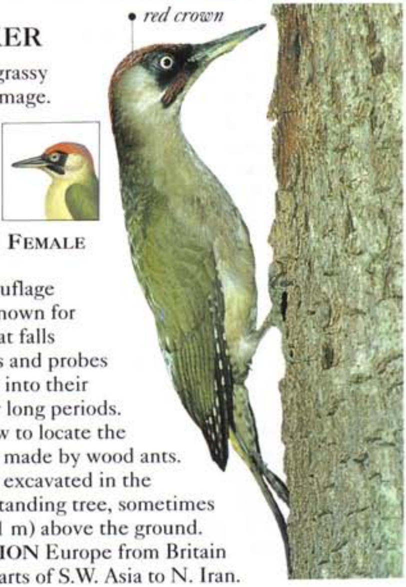

DISTRIBUTION

- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Canada and parts of USA, especially in the east.
- **REMARK** Since the probable extinction of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the middle 20th century, this is now the largest species of woodpecker occurring in North America.

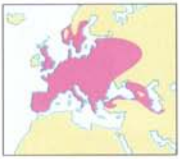
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PICIDAE	Species *Picus viridis*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

EUROPEAN GREEN WOODPECKER



A ground-feeding woodpecker that often forages in grassy places, this species is well-camouflaged by green plumage. Its habitats include open woodland, woodland edge, shrubby growth, and open areas with scattered trees. In flight, a yellow rump is revealed. This species displays the typical flight pattern of woodpeckers, rising with a few, quick wingbeats, then making a short, downward swoop with wings closed, repeating these movements to create an undulating flight path (*see p. 16*). Because of its camouflage plumage the species is difficult to spot, and is best known for its ringing call, a rapidly repeated "plui-plui-plui" that falls away in pitch and volume. When feeding, it crouches and probes for ants' nests, extending its very long, sticky tongue into their burrows, and often working for long periods. In winter it digs deep into snow to locate the large nest heaps made by wood ants.


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A hole excavated in the trunk of a free-standing tree, sometimes as low as 3¼ ft (1 m) above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe from Britain to Russia, and parts of S.W. Asia to N. Iran.

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳 ▲ 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

PASSERINES

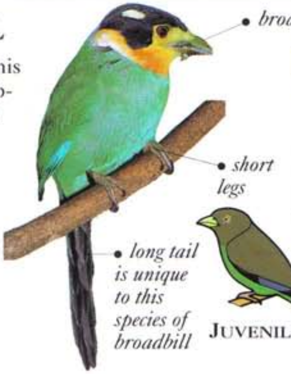
THE 74 PASSERINE FAMILIES contain more than half the world's bird species. The precise meaning of the word passerine is "sparrowlike," and a common, though possibly misleading, alternative is "perching birds" (many non-passerines perch). A third name, not always deserved, is "songbirds." Most passerines are relatively small, and there is a basic similarity of shape throughout the group. Identification may depend on minor details. Legs vary according to life-style, for instance, whether the bird forages on the ground or perches in foliage. Bill shapes vary with the food eaten – most commonly insects, fruit, or seeds. The shape of body, wings, and tail help too, and song can often be decisive in identifying a passerine species.

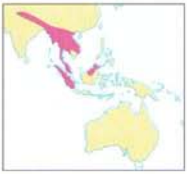
Family EURYLAIMIDAE	Species *Psarisomus dalhousiae*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

LONG-TAILED BROADBILL

A big-headed bird with a short, heavy bill, this species is found in mountain rain forests, subtropical forests, and bamboo thickets. It also occurs in secondary forests (where trees have regrown after clearance). Small flocks feed in the middle height of the trees, taking insects in flight or probing for them on mossy branches and creepers.

- **NEST** A pear-shaped structure with a porched entrance hole at the side, hanging from a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. India and S. China to Sumatra and Borneo.


broad-based bill
short legs
long tail is unique to this species of broadbill
JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

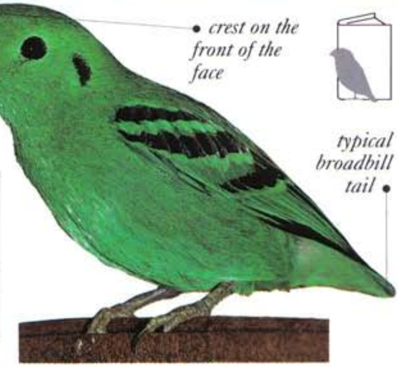
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

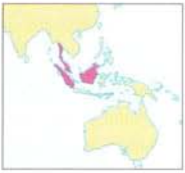
Family EURYLAIMIDAE	Species *Calyptomena viridis*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

GREEN BROADBILL

The wide mouth and bill of this broadbill are concealed under the feathers of its oversize-looking head. Small groups feed in the lower branches on soft fruit, buds, and occasionally insects.

- **NEST** A pear-shaped structure with a porched entrance hole at the side, hanging from a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra (including small islands), and Borneo.


crest on the front of the face
bill hidden under the crest
typical broadbill tail


DISTRIBUTION

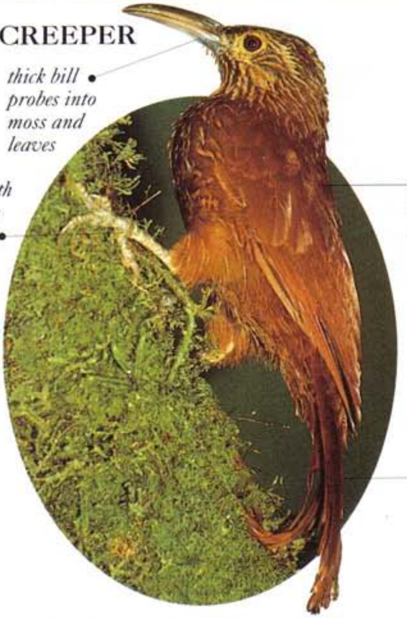
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

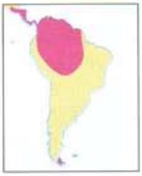
Family DENDROCOLAPTIDAE	Species *Xiphocolaptes promeropirhynchus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

STRONG-BILLED WOODCREEPER

This stoutly built bird, resembling a woodpecker, lives in tropical and mountain forests. Often solitary, it is usually seen climbing up tree trunks and larger branches. It feeds by probing for insects in crevices on tree trunks and branches, as well as hunting them in the foliage. Strong-billed Woodcreepers also descend to feed on or near the rain forest floor. Here they sit and watch army ant swarms from a perch, swooping to the ground to prey on the insects disturbed by the ants.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Mexico through Central America, south to South America. From Colombia east to Guyana, and south through the Andes as far as Bolivia.


thick bill probes into moss and leaves
feet with a wide grasp
stout, heavy body
stiff tail can be bent under body for support


DISTRIBUTION

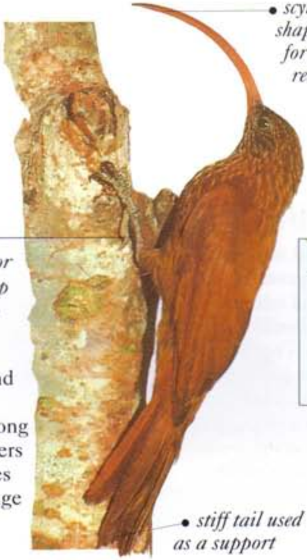
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌲 ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

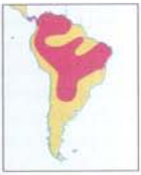
Family DENDROCOLAPTIDAE	Species *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

RED-BILLED SCYTHEBILL

A slender, woodpeckerlike bird with a long, downward-curving bill, this species climbs the trunks and larger branches of trees, probing under bark and into crevices and inside the flowers of bromeliads for insects. It occurs either in rain forests or in sections of swampy woodland surrounded by open country. The Red-billed Scythebill is a sociable bird, often seen among flocks of mixed insect-eating species, each one feeding in its own fashion.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of plant materials, usually built in the hollow of a broken-open stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Panama through lowland South America to N. Argentina and Paraguay.
- **REMARK** The five species of scythebill all belong to the woodcreeper family, most of whose members have long, sicklelike bills for probing into crevices and pulling out prey. Scythebills have the advantage of a very long reach to search deep inside large flowers and capture insects that hide there.


scythe-shaped bill for long reach
strongly built feet for climbing up tree trunks
stiff tail used as a support


DISTRIBUTION

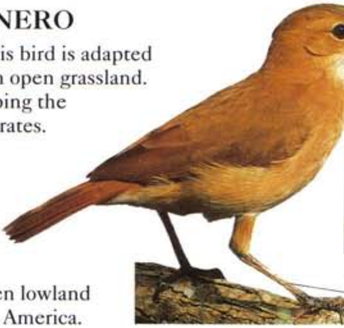
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌲	Migration Non-migrant

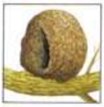
Family FURNARIIDAE	Species *Furnarius rufus*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

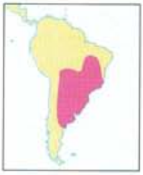
RUFOUS HORNERO

Slim and long-legged, this bird is adapted to living on the ground in open grassland. It is frequently seen probing the surface litter for invertebrates.

- **NEST** A domed mud nest on top of a branch or pole, resembling a bread oven – hence the Spanish name *el hornero* – "the baker."
- **DISTRIBUTION** Open lowland in southern half of South America.


long, ground-probing bill
long, springy legs for foraging


NEST


DISTRIBUTION

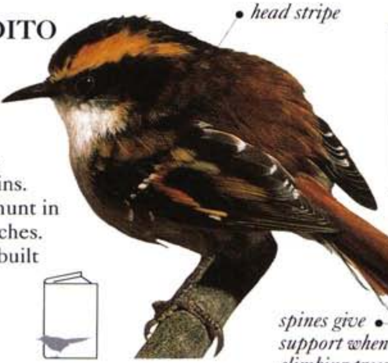
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

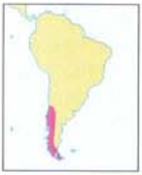
Family FURNARIIDAE	Species *Aphrastura spinicauda*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

THORN-TAILED RAYADITO

A small, active bird with distinctive stripes on the head and wings, this bird gets its name from the tough spines that strengthen its longish tail. Flocks are seen in forest and scrub at all altitudes from lowland to mountains. The birds feed on insects, which they hunt in vegetation, on tree trunks, and on branches.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant materials built behind loose bark or in a tree hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lower Andean slopes and low-lying forests from C. Chile southward.




DISTRIBUTION

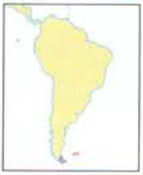
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

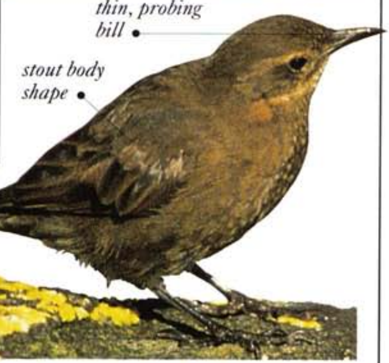
Family FURNARIIDAE	Species *Cinclodes antarcticus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

BLACKISH CINCLODES

This squat bird is found on rocky beaches and in coastal tussock grass, usually on small islands. It is the only dark, ground-dwelling, smallish bird in these habitats. The Blackish Cinclodes is inquisitive and tame, feeding on insects and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest made of dry grass, placed in a crevice among rocks.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Falkland Islands, S. Tierra del Fuego, offshore islands.


DISTRIBUTION



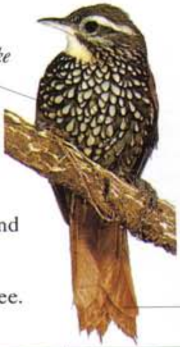
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

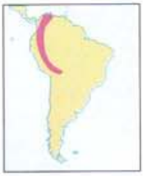
Family FURNARIIDAE | Species *Margarornis squamiger* | Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

PEARLED TREERUNNER

This upland bird is usually seen high in the trees, in forests, and along forest edges, at altitudes where the climate is either subtropical or temperate. It characteristically climbs trunks and branches, often hitching itself under a branch or spiraling along toward a branch tip; otherwise, it may be seen feeding among the foliage. The diet consists almost entirely of insects and spiders. Small groups are often found among mixed-species flocks, hunting invertebrates.

- **NEST** A ball-shaped structure with a side entrance, made of moss and hidden at the base of the branch of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia.




DISTRIBUTION

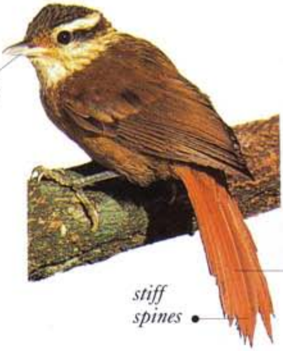
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

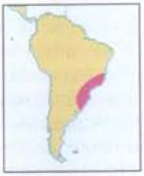
Family FURNARIIDAE | Species *Philydor amaurotis* | Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

WHITE-BROWED FOLIAGE-GLEANER

A small, unobtrusive bird, this species inhabits forests at altitudes where the climate is subtropical. It frequents thick vegetation in the lower and middle forest stories, hopping along branches and clambering about actively. Often joining mixed-species flocks to feed, it searches tangles of dead leaves for invertebrates.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coastal range of hills in S.E. Brazil and N.E. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

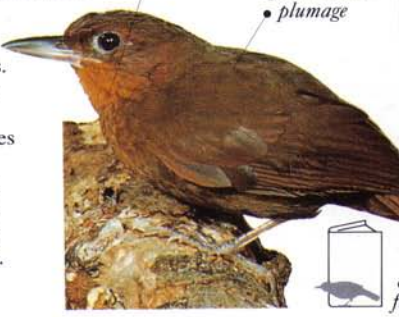
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

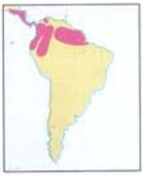
Family FURNARIIDAE | Species *Automolus rubiginosus* | Length 7½ in (19 cm)

RUDDY FOLIAGE-GLEANER

A furtive and retiring species, this bird occurs in rain forest and at forest edges, in lowlands and foothills. It clambers about in thick vegetation near the ground, feeding on insects and small invertebrates. This bird does not normally join the mixed flocks that hunt insects in the undergrowth.

- **NEST** Probably of twigs and plant fibers, the nest is at the end of a long burrow, which the bird digs in a bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Mexico to Bolivia, and through the Guianas.




DISTRIBUTION

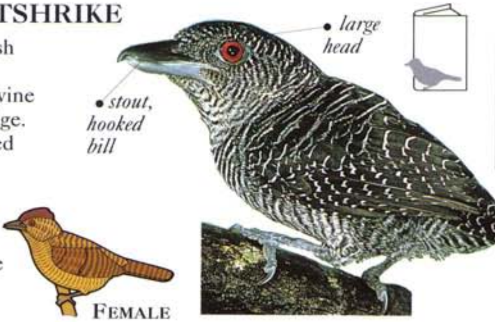
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

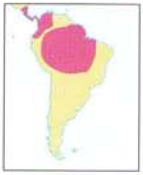
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Cymbilaimus lineatus*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

FASCIATED ANTSHRIKE

A heavy bird with a sluggish appearance, the Fasciated Antshrike hunts insects in vine tangles at the rain forest edge.

- **NEST** A cup nest situated in a bush or a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Honduras through Colombia as far south as N.W. Ecuador. On east side of Andes, from Colombia to N. Bolivia and Brazil.


large head
stout, hooked bill
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

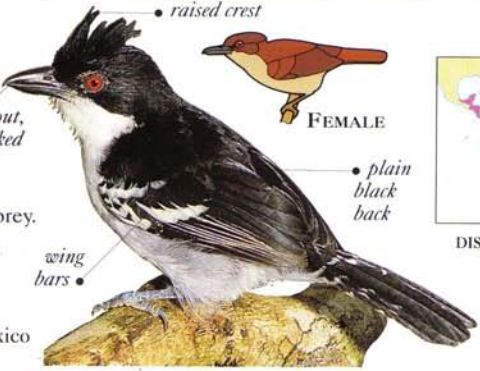
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

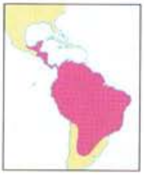
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Taraba major*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

GREAT ANTSHRIKE

Living in the undergrowth of secondary forests (regrown after forest clearance), this species usually moves about in pairs, hopping through thickets, and pausing to peer after their insect prey.

- **NEST** An open cup nest made of grass and leaves, suspended by its outer rim from a twig in a low bush or thicket.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Mexico to Brazil and N. Argentina.


raised crest
FEMALE
stout, hooked bill
plain black back
wing bars


DISTRIBUTION

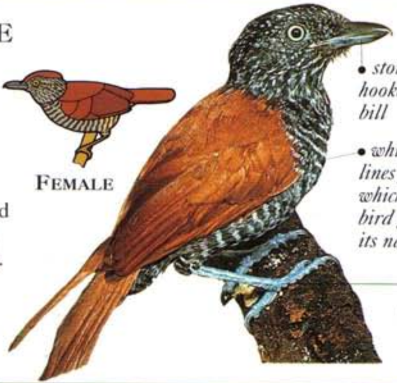
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

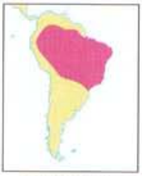
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Thamnophilus palliatus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

LINED ANTSHRIKE

This thickset bird hops about in the dense undergrowth of forest edges, or sometimes in clearings with bushes. It snatches insects and spiders with its stout, hooked bill.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grass and leaves, built into a branch fork, and hidden in the undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Brazil, and neighboring countries north to Colombia and south to Bolivia.


FEMALE
stout, hooked bill
white lines from which the bird gets its name
tough feet for a secure grip on perch


DISTRIBUTION

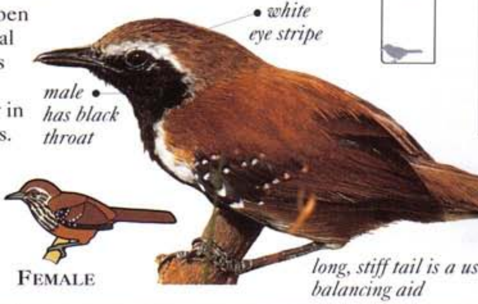
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Formicivora rufa*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

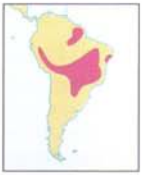
RUSTY-BACKED ANTWREN

This species occurs in dry, open landscapes in savanna (tropical grassland) and scrub. It keeps itself out of sight, hopping around in low cover, singly or in pairs, feeding on small insects.

- **NEST** A small cup nest in the fork of a shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Surinam; and parts of Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Peru.


white eye stripe
male has black throat
long, stiff tail is a useful balancing aid

FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

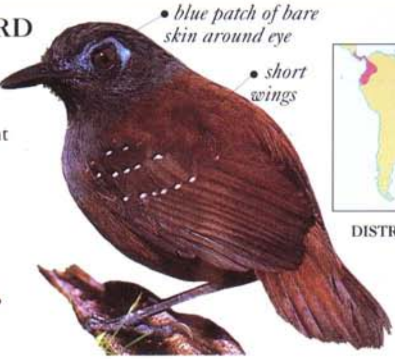
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

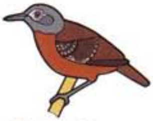
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Myrmeciza exsul*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

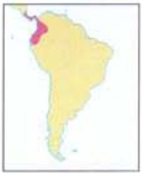
CHESTNUT-BACKED ANTBIRD

A bird of both lowland and foothill forests, this species is seen moving through low vegetation near the ground, usually in pairs. It often accompanies army ant swarms to feed on insects flushed out by the ants and can be seen clinging to vertical stems in the manner typical of all antbird species.

- **NEST** A bulky cup, hidden close to ground level in thick vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Honduras to W. Ecuador.


blue patch of bare skin around eye
short wings


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

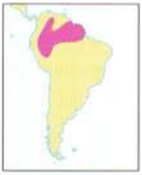
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

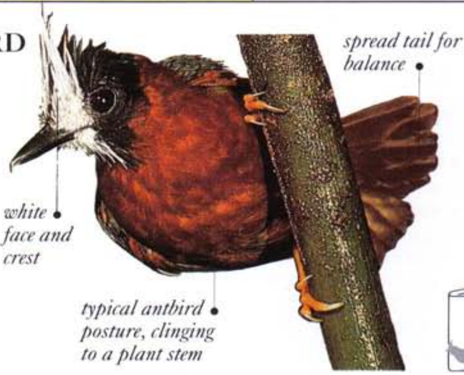
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Pithys albifrons*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

WHITE-PLUMED ANTBIRD

This lowland rain forest bird sometimes forms large flocks. It can often be seen following army ant swarms and clinging to vertical stems, before swooping on insects disturbed by the advancing ants.

- **NEST** A cup nest inside a mass of dead leaves in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Amazon Basin in Brazil and countries to the west and north.


DISTRIBUTION


spread tail for balance
white face and crest
typical antbird posture, clinging to a plant stem

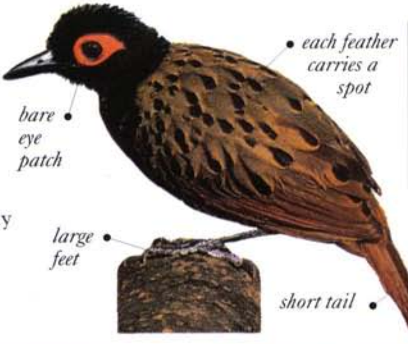
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

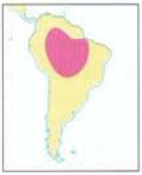
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Phlegopsis nigromaculata*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

BLACK-SPOTTED BARE-EYE

This large antbird inhabits rain forest undergrowth, moving about in flocks. It regularly follows army ant swarms to prey on other insects fleeing from the ants.

- **NEST** An unlined cup nest, usually in the hollow top of a palm stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Amazon basin.
- **REMARK** Several antbird species have bare skin around the eye.


each feather carries a spot
bare eye patch
large feet
short tail



DISTRIBUTION

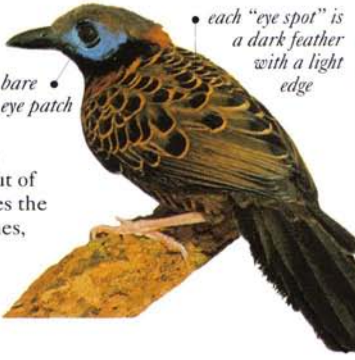
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

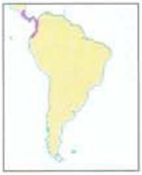
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Phaenostictus mcleannani*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

OCELLATED ANTBIRD

Strikingly marked with "eye spots" (ocellated), this is a large antbird of lowland rain forest. Like other birds of the antbird family, it characteristically feeds by watching the ground for army ant swarms and pouncing on insects flushed out of their hiding places by the ants. It dominates the smaller antbirds, claiming the lowest perches, so as to have first choice of the insects as they make their escape from the ants.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Central and South America from Honduras to W. Ecuador.


each "eye spot" is a dark feather with a light edge
bare eye patch



DISTRIBUTION

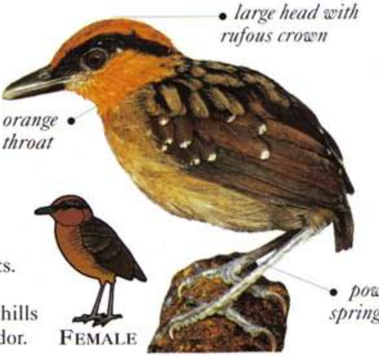
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

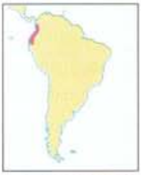
Family FORMICARIIDAE	Species *Pittasoma rufopileatum*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

RUFOUS-CROWNED ANTPITTA

This bird lives in tropical rain forest, also occurring in mature secondary forest (regrown after rain forest clearance). It feeds mainly by bounding along on the forest floor, catching insects as it goes; it also watches over army ant swarms to prey on insects flushed from cover by the ants.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands and foothills west of the Andes in Colombia and Ecuador.


large head with rufous crown
orange throat
FEMALE
powerful, springy legs



DISTRIBUTION

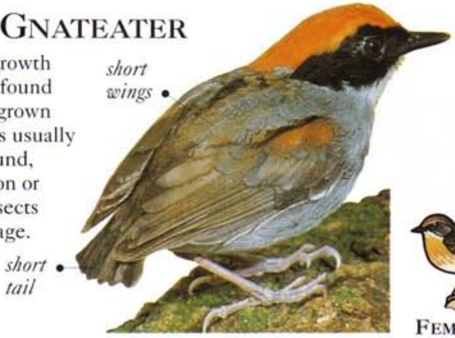
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

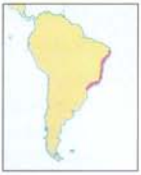
Family CONOPOPHAGIDAE	Species *Conopophaga melanops*	Length 4½ in (11.5 cm)

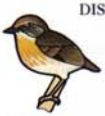
BLACK-CHEEKED GNATEATER

Adapted for life in the undergrowth of rain forests, this bird is also found in mature secondary forest (regrown after rain forest clearance). It is usually solitary and stays near the ground, creeping through the vegetation or making brief flights to take insects from the ground and from foliage.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Coastal lowlands of E. Brazil.


short wings
short tail


DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

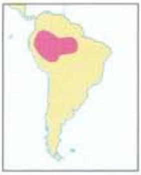
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

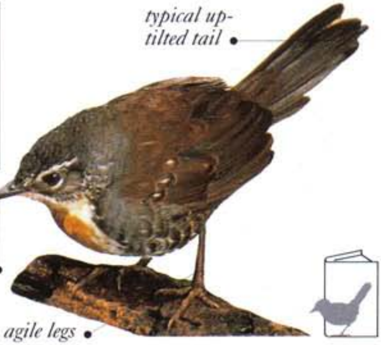
Family RHINOCRYPTIDAE	Species *Liosceles thoracicus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

RUSTY-BELTED TAPACULO

A ground-dwelling inhabitant of lowland rain forest, this species hops about on the forest floor or in low vegetation, seeking its insect prey.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Amazonian rain forest in W. Brazil and adjoining areas of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.
- **REMARK** *Tapaculo* is Spanish for "cover your rear end" in a joking reference to the cocked tail.


DISTRIBUTION


typical up-tilted tail
pointed bill
slender, agile legs

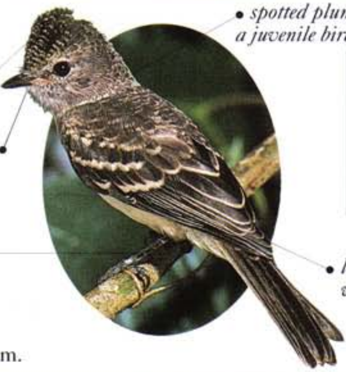
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

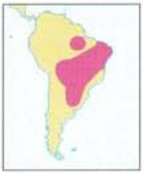
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Suiriri suiriri*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

SUIRIRI FLYCATCHER

This slenderly built tyrant flycatcher is a bird of open woodland, thinly scattered trees, and scrubby growth. It feeds by gleaning insects from among the foliage and often joins mixed-species flocks of insect-hunting birds.

- **NEST** A simple cup nest of plant fibers in the fork of a twig.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From N.E. Brazil southward as far as C. Argentina; and from N. Brazil across the border into Surinam.

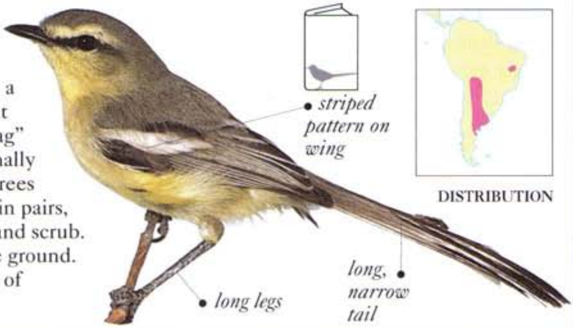

spotted plumage denotes a juvenile bird
raised crest
bristles
short legs
long wings for rapid flight


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Stigmatura budytoides*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

GREATER WAGTAIL-TYRANT



DISTRIBUTION

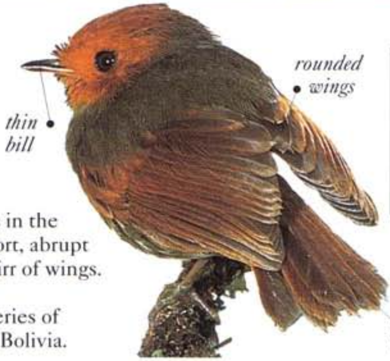
Like the Old World wagtails, this is a slender bird with a long tail, which it bobs up and down and does not "wag" from side to side. This species normally holds its tail cocked and frequents trees rather than water. It is usually seen in pairs, gleaning insects in open woodland and scrub.

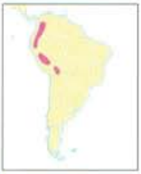
- **NEST** A shallow cup, close to the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Bolivia, part of Argentina, and E. Brazil.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ✶	Migration Non-migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Pseudotriccus ruficeps*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

RUFOUS-HEADED PYGMY-TYRANT




DISTRIBUTION

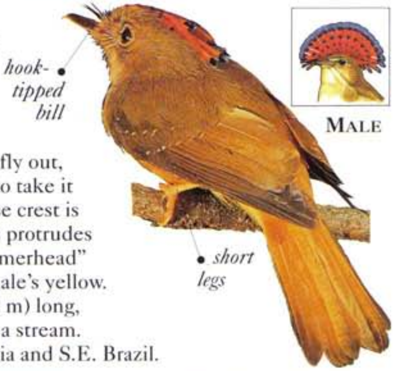
This is a plump, wren-size bird with a tiny bill, found on forested mountain slopes, at altitudes where the climate is either subtropical or temperate. Inconspicuous and often solitary, it creeps about hunting insects in the undergrowth. It occasionally makes short, abrupt flights, accompanied by an audible whirr of wings.

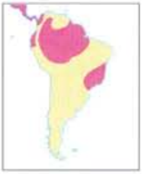
- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** The Andes in a series of areas in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ⛰ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Onychorhynchus coronatus*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

ROYAL FLYCATCHER




DISTRIBUTION

A slender tyrant flycatcher, this species inhabits the lower levels of rain forest and subtropical open forest. Its typical way of feeding is to watch from a perch and fly out, either to seize an insect in the air or to take it from the foliage. The vivid, transverse crest is normally folded away and sometimes protrudes behind the head, resulting in a "hammerhead" look. The male's crest is red, the female's yellow.

- **NEST** A slender bag up to 6½ ft (2 m) long, suspended from a branch, often over a stream.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mexico to Bolivia and S.E. Brazil.

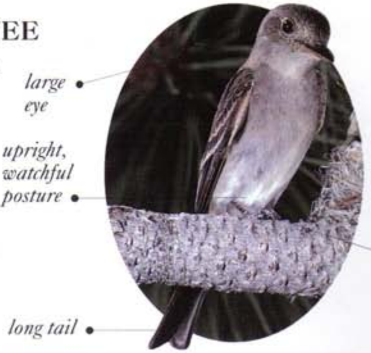
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

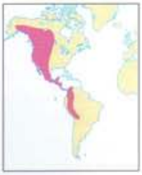
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Contopus sordidulus*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE

This medium-size flycatcher of open forest or forest edge is often seen perching on an open branch or bare snag, from which it flies out to catch insects in midair.

- **NEST** An open cup nest fixed on a horizontal branch, often high.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in forests of W. North America and mountain forests of Central America. Winters in South America as far south as Peru and Bolivia.




DISTRIBUTION

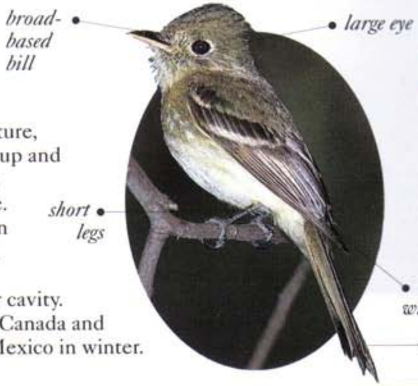
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Migrant

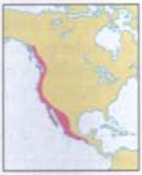
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Empidonax difficilis*	Length 5¼ in (13.5 cm)

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER

A small, inconspicuous flycatcher, this bird perches in an upright posture, occasionally waving its fanned tail up and down ("flirting"), and swooping to seize insects in the air or on foliage. It frequents woodland on mountain slopes, as well as wooded canyons.

- **NEST** A cup nest formed from plant materials, built in a hollow or cavity.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. Canada and USA. Migrates as far south as W. Mexico in winter.




DISTRIBUTION

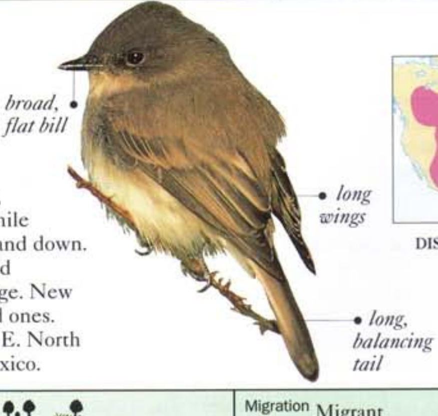
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳	Migration Migrant

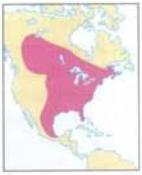
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Sayornis phoebe*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

EASTERN PHOEBE

Named in imitation of its "fee-bee" call, the Eastern Phoebe lives in open woodland and farmland, hunting insects from an open perch, usually near water. It has also adapted successfully to urban habitats, where it nests readily on buildings. While perched, it frequently bobs its tail up and down.

- **NEST** A stout cup nest made of mud and plant materials, on a sheltered ledge. New nests are sometimes built on top of old ones.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in C. and E. North America. Winters in S.E. USA and Mexico.




DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE

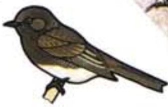
Species *Sayornis nigricans*

Length 7½ in (19 cm)

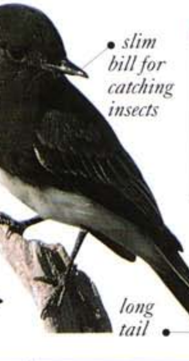
BLACK PHOEBE

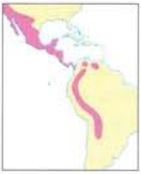
Known for its "fee-bee" call, the Black Phoebe is quite tame and is often seen perched on a boulder in mid-river. It sallies short distances over the water surface to catch flying insects, returning to the same perch. The upright posture of the perched bird, and its wagging tail, are useful identifying features in the field.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of mud pellets and grass, on a rocky ledge near water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.W. USA through Central America and the Andes to Bolivia and N.W. Argentina.



JUVENILE





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat ≋

Migration Non-migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE

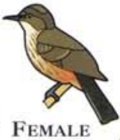
Species *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

Length 6 in (15 cm)

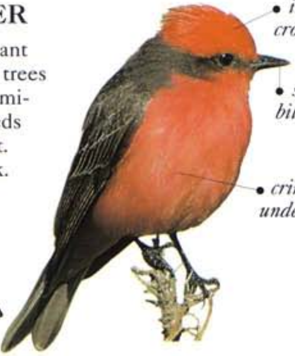
VERMILION FLYCATCHER

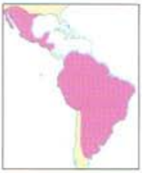
Easily the most vividly colored of the tyrant flycatchers, this species lives in scattered trees and shrubs or open woodland, often in semi-arid country but usually near water. It feeds on insects caught either at rest or in flight.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeding range extends from USA to Argentina; also Galapagos Islands. Southern populations winter in Amazonia, northern ones in Central America.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ

Habitat ▲ 🌳

Migration Partial migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE

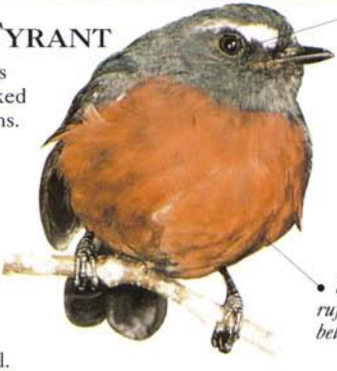
Species *Ochthoeca cinnamomeiventris*

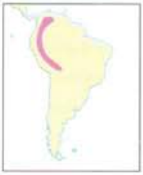
Length 5 in (13 cm)

SLATY-BACKED CHAT-TYRANT

This squat, dark, short-billed bird occurs in forests on mountain slopes. Slaty-backed Chat-Tyrants are often seen along streams. The species is highly sedentary – birds normally spend their whole life within a small locality. They are usually seen in pairs, hunting insects and other invertebrates in low vegetation.

- **NEST** An open cup nest, built on a ledge on a rock face, near water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Through the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia, at altitudes where the climate is subtropical.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat 🌳 ▲

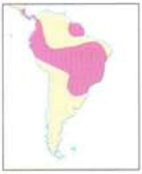
Migration Non-migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Colonia colonus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

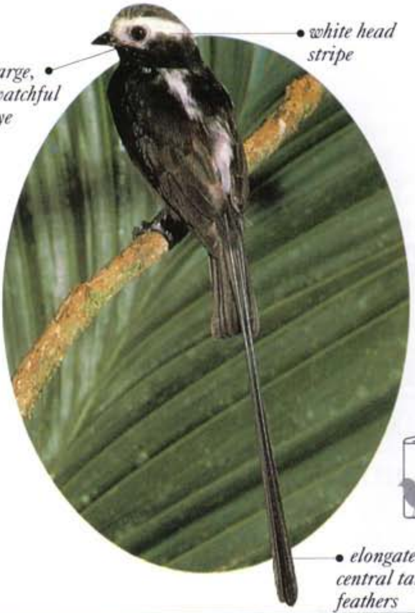
LONG-TAILED TYRANT

Two long tail feathers make this bird conspicuous in flight or in the prominent places where it tends to perch. It spends much of the day on an exposed vantage point in the tree canopy at the outer fringes of lowland rain forest or isolated woodlands. Favored perches are on dead or dying trees, bare branches, and snags. Long-tailed Flycatchers nearly always perch in pairs, and each pair tends to use a particular perch or series of perches habitually. They watch for flying insects and make quick outward flights to seize them, usually returning faithfully to the same perch. Stingless bees are among the most common prey items.

- **NEST** A loose nest of plant materials is placed in a hole in a dead branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Honduras to Colombia; S. Brazil and N.E. Argentina; and the Guianas.



DISTRIBUTION



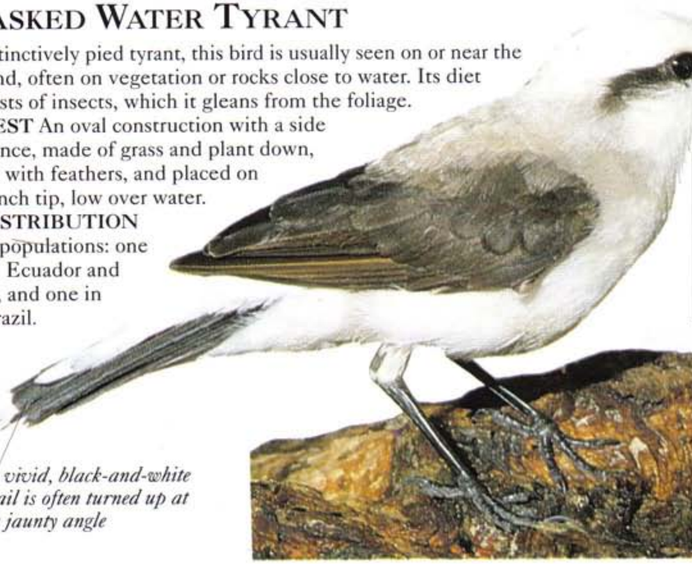
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

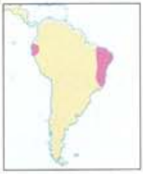
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Fluvicola nengeta*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

MASKED WATER TYRANT

A distinctively pied tyrant, this bird is usually seen on or near the ground, often on vegetation or rocks close to water. Its diet consists of insects, which it gleans from the foliage.

- **NEST** An oval construction with a side entrance, made of grass and plant down, lined with feathers, and placed on a branch tip, low over water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two populations: one in W. Ecuador and Peru, and one in E. Brazil.


black eye stripe
vivid, black-and-white tail is often turned up at a jaunty angle



DISTRIBUTION

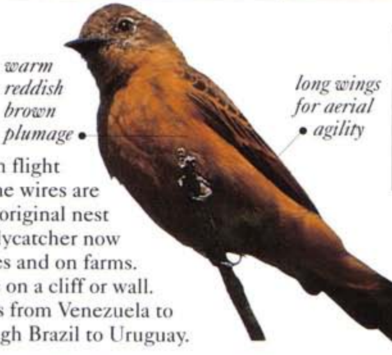
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

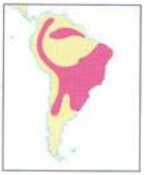
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Hirundinea ferruginea*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

CLIFF FLYCATCHER

A slender bird with noisy, twittering and chattering calls, this species sits on conspicuous perches. It frequents rocky places and is often seen at road cuttings, flying out to catch an insect in flight before returning to its perch. Telephone wires are also used as perches. In addition to its original nest sites on cliffs and outcrops, the Cliff Flycatcher now commonly nests on buildings in villages and on farms.

- **NEST** A cup nest, placed on a ledge on a cliff or wall.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andean highlands from Venezuela to Argentina; also from the Guianas through Brazil to Uruguay.




DISTRIBUTION

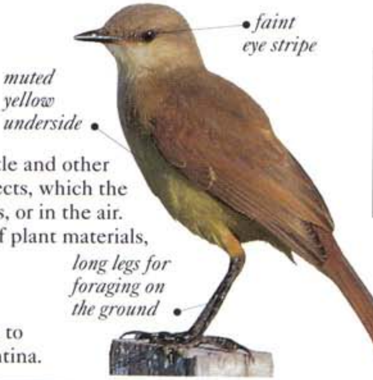
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

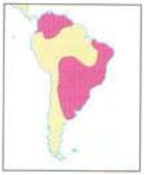
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Machetornis rixosus*	Length ~~7½ in~~ (19 cm)

CATTLE TYRANT

Adapted to life in an open-country habitat, this slender bird can run considerable distances across the ground. It also perches on rocks, low vegetation, and even on the backs of cattle and other grazing animals. The diet consists of insects, which the birds catch on the ground, on the animals, or in the air.

- **NEST** A large, ball-shaped structure of plant materials, sited in low vegetation. Also uses old nests of other grassland bird species.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands from Venezuela to Colombia, from N.E. Brazil to S. Brazil, and from E. Bolivia to N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

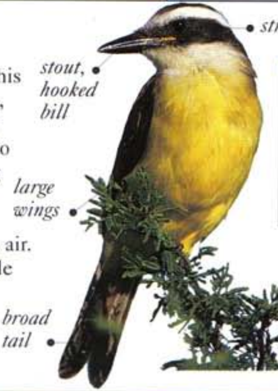
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

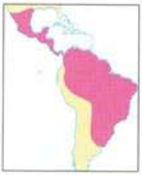
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Pitangus sulphuratus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

GREAT KISKADEE

A large and noisy, tree-dwelling tyrant flycatcher, this species is seen in open country with scattered trees, often beside water or around human habitations. It hunts from a perch, using its strong, predatory bill to pounce on small creatures on the ground, including insects, worms, and even small vertebrates such as mice, frogs, and lizards. The Great Kiskadee also plunge-dives to catch fish, and hawks insects in the air.

- **NEST** A large and loosely domed nest with a wide side entrance, or sometimes an open cup nest, made of plant materials and situated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. USA (S. Texas) as far south as C. Argentina. Introduced in Bermuda.




DISTRIBUTION

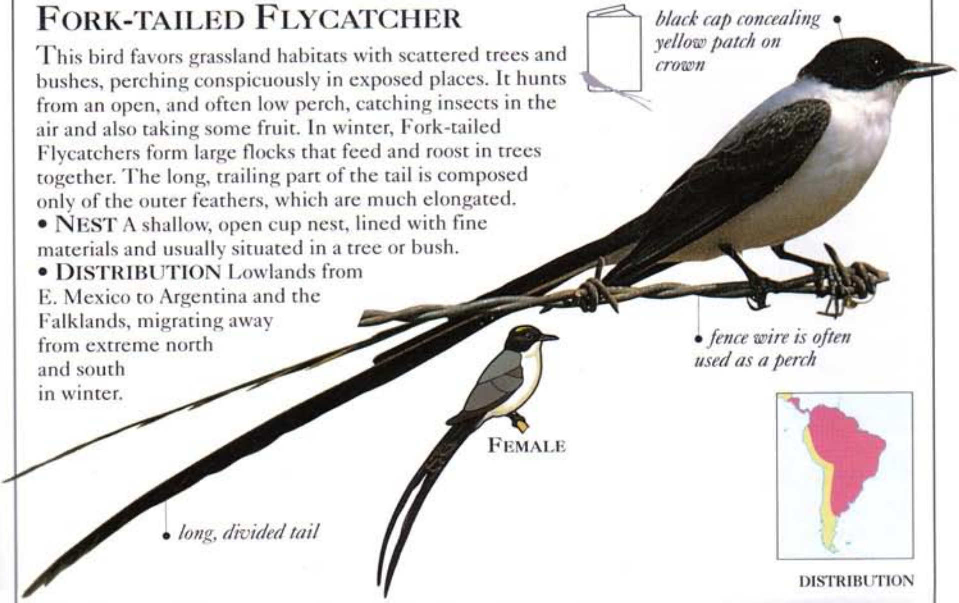
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family TYRANNIDAE
Species *Tyrannus savana*
Length 9 in (23 cm)

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER

This bird favors grassland habitats with scattered trees and bushes, perching conspicuously in exposed places. It hunts from an open, and often low perch, catching insects in the air and also taking some fruit. In winter, Fork-tailed Flycatchers form large flocks that feed and roost in trees together. The long, trailing part of the tail is composed only of the outer feathers, which are much elongated.

- **NEST** A shallow, open cup nest, lined with fine materials and usually situated in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands from E. Mexico to Argentina and the Falklands, migrating away from extreme north and south in winter.


black cap concealing yellow patch on crown
fence wire is often used as a perch
FEMALE
long, divided tail
DISTRIBUTION

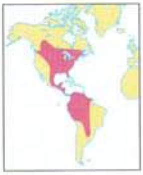
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Migrant

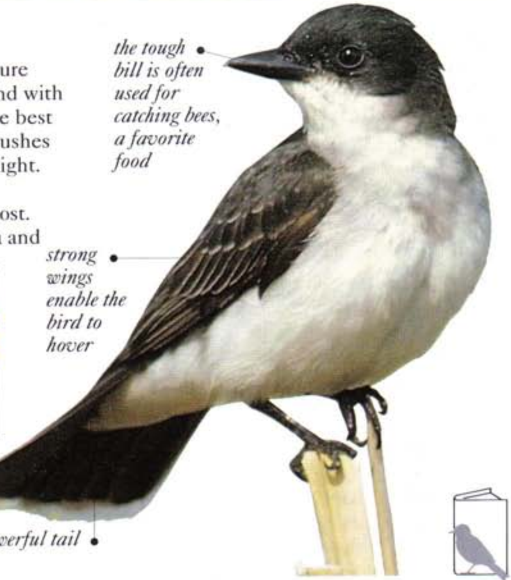
Family TYRANNIDAE
Species *Tyrannus tyrannus*
Length 8½ in (22 cm)

EASTERN KINGBIRD

Usually seen perching in an upright posture in woodland clearings, farms, and grassland with bushes, often near water, this is one of the best known tyrant flycatchers. It perches on bushes or wires, darting out to catch insects in flight.

- **NEST** A saucerlike structure made of twigs, placed on a limb of a tree or on a post.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada and much of the USA. Winters in South America from Colombia to N. Argentina.
- **REMARK** This was the first bird to be described as a tyrant flycatcher. It was so named because of its aggressive behavior toward other species. It will attack any bird, up to the size of a hawk, appearing in its habitat.


DISTRIBUTION


the tough bill is often used for catching bees, a favorite food
strong wings enable the bird to hover
powerful tail

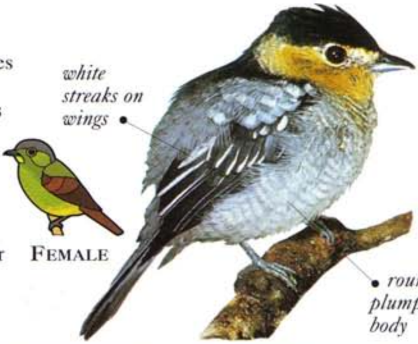
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat
Migration Migrant

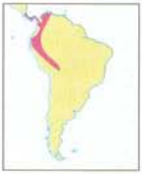
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Pachyramphus versicolor*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

BARRED BECARD

Living in forested mountainsides at altitudes where the climate is subtropical, this small bird feeds on insects and fruit. It forages at all levels in the vegetation, usually in pairs and often in mixed-species flocks.

- **NEST** A rounded, woven structure, with the entrance near the bottom, built in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Costa Rica to W. Venezuela and W. Bolivia.




DISTRIBUTION

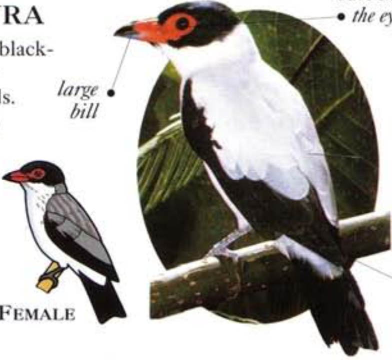
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

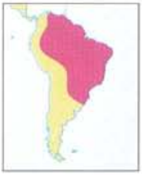
Family TYRANNIDAE	Species *Tityra cayana*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

BLACK-TAILED TITYRA

This species is conspicuous for its black-and-white plumage and for its way of perching on exposed branch-ends. The stout bill is adapted for eating fruit and large insects. Usually in pairs, it frequents the canopy at forest edge or beside clearings.

- **NEST** A cup nest on top of a pile of leaf litter, stuffed into a woodpecker hole or other cavity.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowland rain forest from Colombia and Venezuela to N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

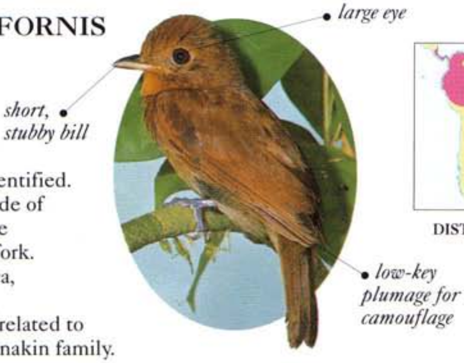
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

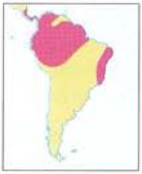
Family PIPRIDAE	Species *Schiffornis turdinus*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

THRUSH-LIKE SCHIFFORNIS

This plain-looking bird lives in rain forests, feeding on insects and fruit. It is very furtive in its behavior and hides in the undergrowth but has a loud, whistling song by which it can be identified.

- **NEST** A bulky, open cup nest made of plant materials, usually placed on the stub of a broken branch or in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Central America, N.W. South America, and E. Brazil.
- **REMARK** Probably more closely related to the tyrant flycatchers than to the manakin family.




DISTRIBUTION

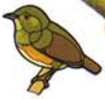
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family **PIPRIDAE** | Species *Machaeropterus regulus* | Length 3½ in (9 cm)

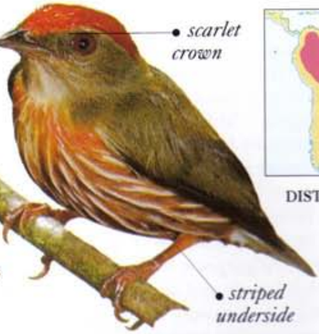
STRIPED MANAKIN

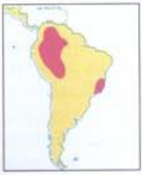
This tiny bird occurs in the lower and middle levels of rain forest and secondary woodland (regrown after forest clearance). It is less conspicuous than other manakins. Males perform courtship displays at specially reserved sites known as "leks." The species feeds on small fruits and insects.

- **NEST** Unknown, but probably a cup nest in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands in Columbia, Venezuela, E. Ecuador, N.E. Peru; also W. and E. Brazil.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

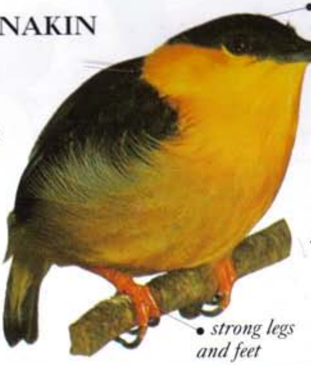
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

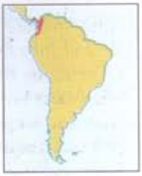
Family **PIPRIDAE** | Species *Manacus vitellinus* | Length 4 in (10 cm)

GOLDEN-COLLARED MANAKIN

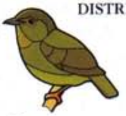
A colorful bird of the undergrowth, this species occurs at rain forest edges and in secondary woodland (regrown after rain forest clearance). Males perform courtship displays at special sites known as "leks," in which they puff out their throats, utter "snapping" calls, and fly back and forth between perches. The diet consists of fruits and insects.

- **NEST** A small cup nest made of plant materials, situated in a twig fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands from Panama to W. Colombia.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

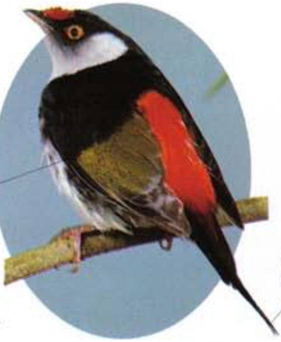
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

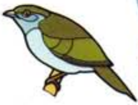
Family **PIPRIDAE** | Species *Ilicura militaris* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

PIN-TAILED MANAKIN

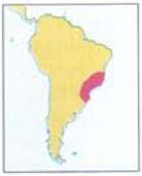
This bird lives in the lower and middle levels of rain forest and mature secondary woodland (regrown after rain forest clearance). It feeds on small fruits and insects. Males display to females in a group, calling and ruffling their scarlet rump feathers. Females build the nest and perform all parental duties unaided by the male.

- **NEST** A small cup nest, situated in a twig fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands and foothills in S.E. Brazil.





FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

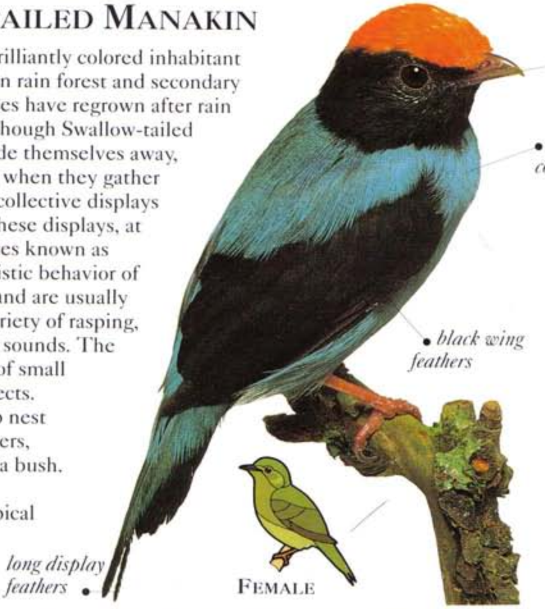
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

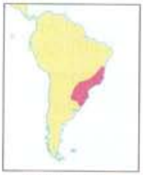
Family PIPRIDAE	Species *Chiroxiphia caudata*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

SWALLOW-TAILED MANAKIN

This manakin is a brilliantly colored inhabitant of the undergrowth in rain forest and secondary woodland (where trees have regrown after rain forest clearance). Although Swallow-tailed Manakins usually hide themselves away, males are noticeable when they gather together to perform collective displays to attract females. These displays, at specially reserved sites known as "leks," are characteristic behavior of the manakin family and are usually accompanied by a variety of rasping, buzzing, and rattling sounds. The diet consists mainly of small fruits, with some insects.

- **NEST** A small cup nest of grass and plant fibers, placed in the fork of a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowland and subtropical zones of S.E. Brazil, E. Paraguay, and N.E. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

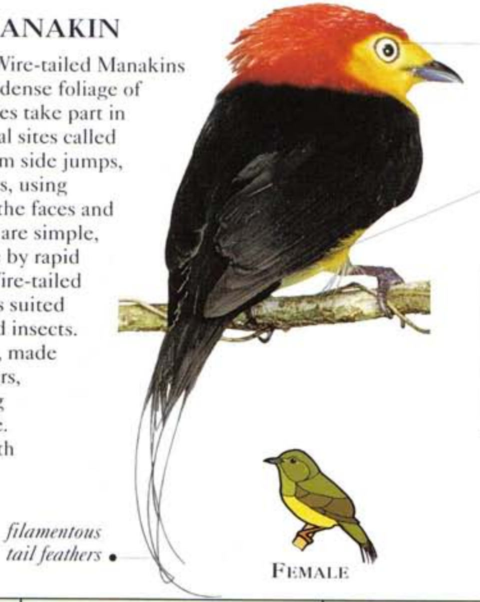
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

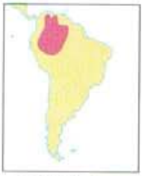
Family PIPRIDAE	Species *Pipra filicauda*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

WIRE-TAILED MANAKIN

Although gaudily marked, Wire-tailed Manakins are easily overlooked in the dense foliage of their rain forest habitat. Males take part in communal displays, at special sites called "leks," in which they perform side jumps, brief flights, and various calls, using their tail filaments to tickle the faces and throats of the females. Calls are simple, but unusual noises are made by rapid vibration of feathers. The Wire-tailed Manakin's short, broad bill is suited to its mixed diet of fruits and insects.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest, made of various types of plant fibers, with excess material hanging below, located in a small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. South America, east of the Andes.
- **REMARK** As in most manakins, the brightly colored male contrasts with the green female.




DISTRIBUTION

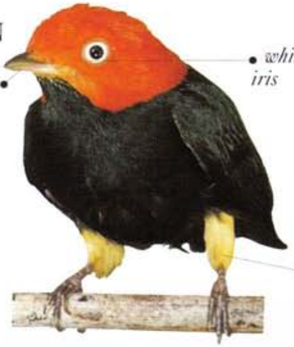
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

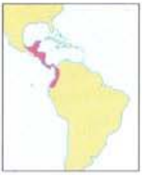
Family PIPRIDAE	Species *Pipra mentalis*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

RED-CAPPED MANAKIN

This boldly colored manakin lives in both rain forest and the secondary woodland that grows after rain forest clearance. It is seen in the middle levels of the forest, feeding mainly on berries, which it plucks in hovering flight, and sometimes taking small insects.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest attached to a horizontal fork in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.E. Mexico to W. Colombia and W. Ecuador.


broad bill
white iris
buff-colored leg featherings


DISTRIBUTION

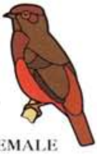
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

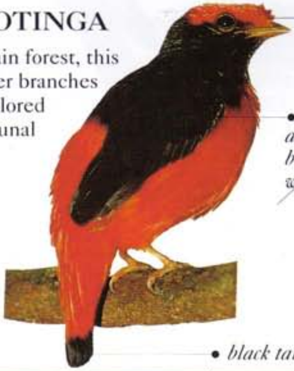
Family COTINGIDAE	Species *Phoenicircus nigricollis*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

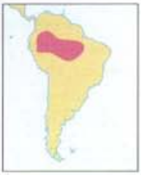
BLACK-NECKED RED COTINGA

Mainly inhabiting the lower growth of rain forest, this cotinga also ascends to forage in the upper branches for large insects or fruits. The brightly colored males gather in noisy, spectacular, communal displays at special sites known as "leks," but otherwise the species is generally shy and inconspicuous.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Drier lowland rain forests from S. Colombia, S.W. Venezuela, south to N.E. Peru and W. Brazil.


FEMALE


red, bristly crest
red-and-black wings
black tail tip


DISTRIBUTION

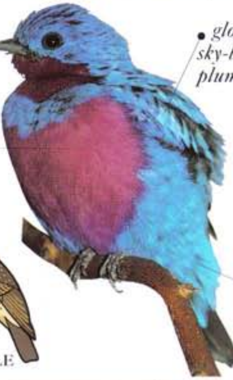
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

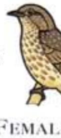
Family COTINGIDAE	Species *Cotinga amabilis*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

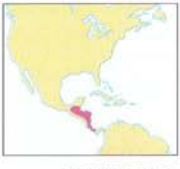
LOVELY COTINGA

This beautiful blue cotinga sometimes perches on exposed, high branches but usually remains concealed within the canopy or in the vegetation at the edge of the rain forest. It feeds on fruit and sometimes insects. Males fly with a whirring sound as part of their courtship display behavior.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest, sometimes hidden in foliage, close to the trunk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Mexico to Panama, on Caribbean slope.


curved bill
glossy sky-blue plumage
heart-shaped breast patch
thickly feathered rump


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

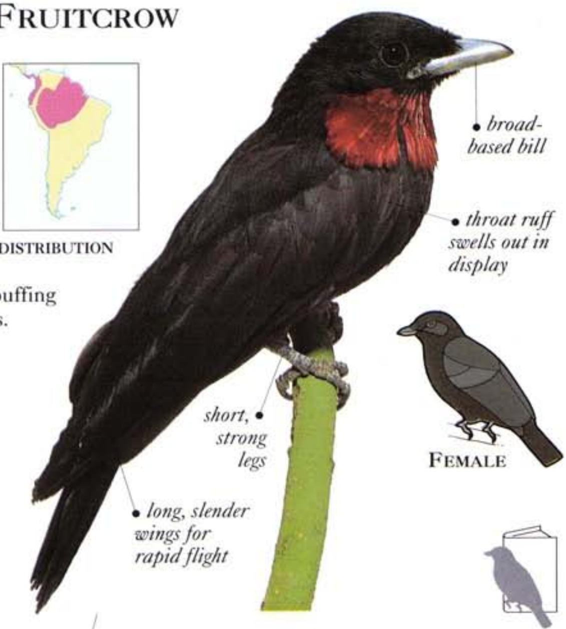
Family **COTINGIDAE**	Species *Querula purpurata*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW

A large cotinga with dark plumage, this species inhabits the middle and upper levels of the rain forest, where it feeds on insects as well as on fruit. Purple-throated Fruitcrows live in small social groups. The members of each of these communities feed and rest together and care jointly for the young in the nest. In courtship, the male displays by puffing out his ruff of purple throat feathers.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest made of twigs, located high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands from Costa Rica through much of South America as far south as N. Bolivia and Amazonian Brazil.
- **REMARK** Fruitcrows are the only cotingas that live in social groups. There are three other species: the Red-ruffed, Crimson, and Bare-necked Fruitcrows, all living in South America.

DISTRIBUTION


broad-based bill
throat ruff swells out in display
short, strong legs
long, slender wings for rapid flight
FEMALE

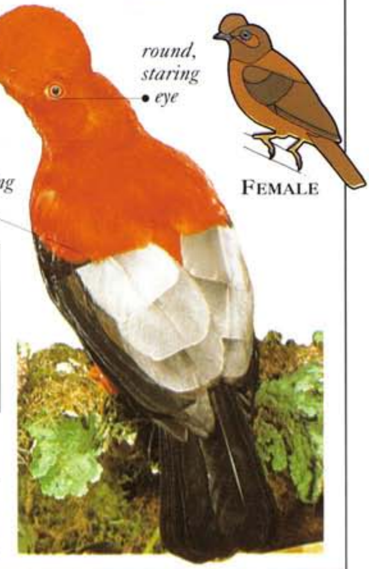
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

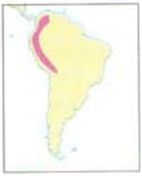
Family **COTINGIDAE**	Species *Rupicola peruviana*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

ANDEAN COCK-OF-THE-ROCK

This vivid bird occurs in forest by streams and in wooded gorges of the Andes, feeding on fruit. The highly colored males perform noisy, communal courtship displays, at special sites known as "leks," on bare branches in middle and upper vegetation. During display, males extend the crest forward, completely covering the bill. The shape of the eye also changes from round to narrowly elliptical. The females are cinnamon brown all over and have smaller crests than the males. They visit the lek and watch the displaying males, and eventually each female selects a mate. After mating, they perform all nesting duties and parental care, unaided by the males.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest made of mud and stuck to a rock face in a sheltered hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia at altitudes where the climate is subtropical.


semicircular crest opens out further in full display
round, staring eye
enlarged wing coverts
FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

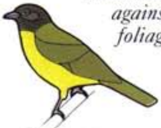
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 ≋ ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

Family COTINGIDAE	Species *Procnias nudicollis*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

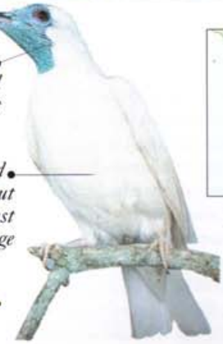
BARE-THROATED BELLBIRD

Living in the canopy of tropical mountain forests, this bird is more often heard than seen. It is sluggish and rarely leaves the treetops, but can be identified by its calls, which ring out like the clanging of a bell. The Bare-throated Bellbird feeds on fruit. Females seek out males to mate, then nest unaided.

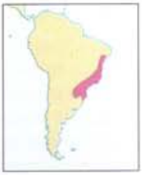
- **NEST** A flimsy cup nest made of twigs, placed in the fork of a bough.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forested mountains from E. Brazil to S.E. Paraguay.



FEMALE



bare skin on face and throat
white bird stands out against foliage



DISTRIBUTION

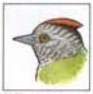
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family OXYRUNCIDAE	Species *Oxyruncus cristatus*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

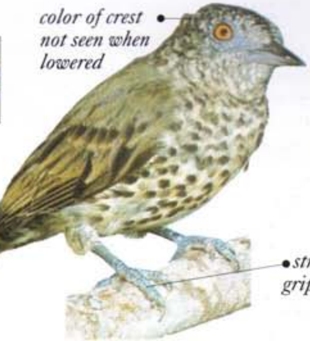
SHARPBILL

The Sharpbill is a rain forest bird living among the branches of the canopy or at the forest edge. It feeds on insects and small fruits, clinging with acrobatic skill to the branches. Males gather to perform collective displays at special sites called "leks."

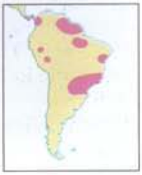
- **NEST** A shallow cup nest in the fork of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Patchily distributed from Costa Rica as far south as E. Peru and Paraguay.



HEAD AND CREST



color of crest not seen when lowered
strong feet grip firmly



DISTRIBUTION

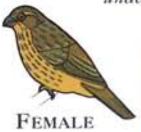
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PHYTOTOMIDAE	Species *Phytotoma rara*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

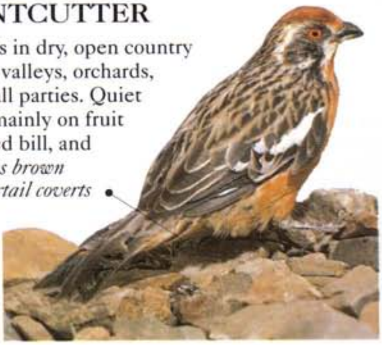
RUFOUS-TAILED PLANTCUTTER

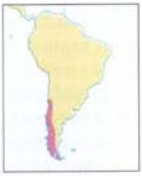
This superficially finchlike bird occurs in dry, open country with shrubs and trees and also in river valleys, orchards, and farmland. It is seen in pairs or small parties. Quiet and unobtrusive in behavior, it feeds mainly on fruit and buds, which it cuts with its serrated bill, and sometimes on insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest in the fork of a shrub or small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** C. and S. Chile and adjacent parts of Argentina.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

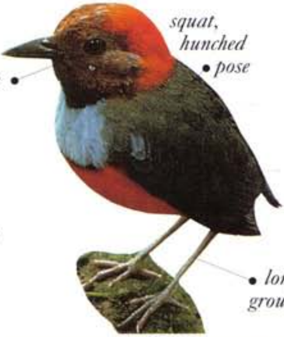
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲ 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

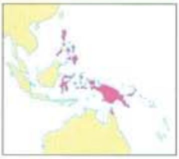
Family PITTIDAE	Species *Pitta erythrogaster*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

RED-BELLIED PITTA

This pitta is usually seen on the rain forest floor, hopping from place to place and also making short flights. It feeds on small invertebrates (hammering snails on stones) and small fruits. It sometimes ascends the trees to sing and may roost in the branches as well.

- **NEST** Dome with a side entrance, on the ground, on a tree stump, or in a vine tangle.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Philippines, E. Indonesia, New Guinea, and N. Australia. Some limited migration.




DISTRIBUTION

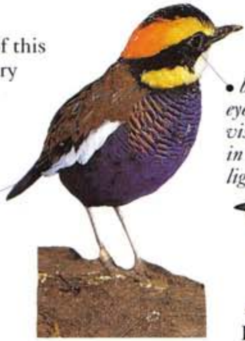
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Partial migrant

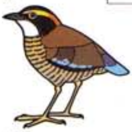
Family PITTIDAE	Species *Pitta guajana*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

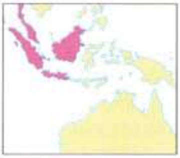
BANDED PITTA

Shady rain forests are the main habitat of this pitta, but it can also be found in secondary woodland (regrown after rain forest has been cleared). It can be seen hopping along the ground in search of snails, worms, beetles, and other large insects. Its call is loud and penetrating.

- **NEST** A ball-shaped, hollow structure made of vegetation and placed in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Java, and Bali.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

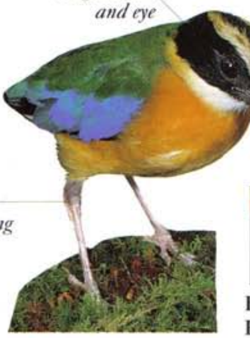
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family PITTIDAE	Species *Pitta brachyura*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

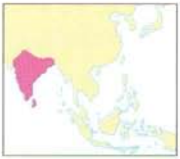
INDIAN PITTA

The habitat of this pitta extends from tropical into subtropical forests and thick scrub. Its flight is limited, although it ascends trees to roost and sing. It travels in springy hops, looking for fruit, insects, and seeds.

- **NEST** A large, domed nest at ground level, with a side entrance.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Indian subcontinent. Migrant populations winter in S. India and Sri Lanka.



BLUE WING PATCH


DISTRIBUTION

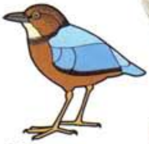
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌿	Migration Partial migrant

Family PITTIDAE	Species *Pitta caerulea*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

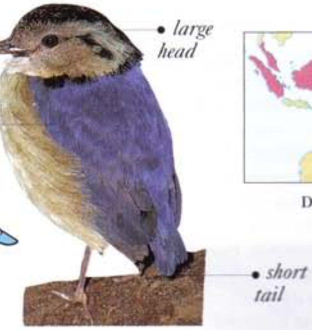
GIANT PITTA

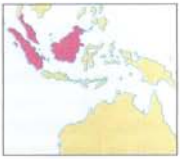
This shy bird is rarely seen, but its distinctive calls are easily heard. It is at its most common in the lowland rain forests, but it has also been recorded in mountain rain forests. The diet consists mainly of land snails and earthworms.

- **NEST** A domed structure of dead leaves and twigs, hidden in undergrowth, with a side entrance.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

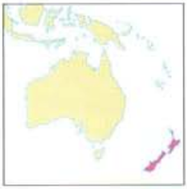
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACANTHISITTIDAE	Species *Acanthisitta chloris*	Length 3¼ in (8 cm)

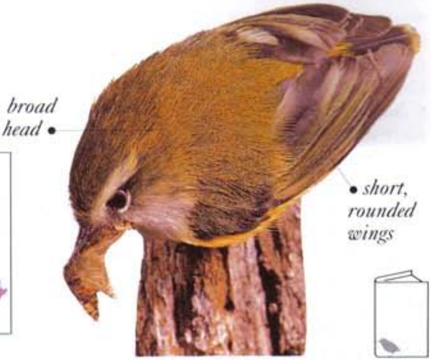
RIFLEMAN

Also known as the Titipounamou, this tiny forest bird uses its sharp bill to search crevices in bark and probe mosses and lichens for insects. It has a high pitched call.

- **NEST** A loosely woven, domed nest with a side entrance, in a tree hollow, or sometimes in a bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand.
- **REMARK** A threatened species due to forest destruction.



DISTRIBUTION



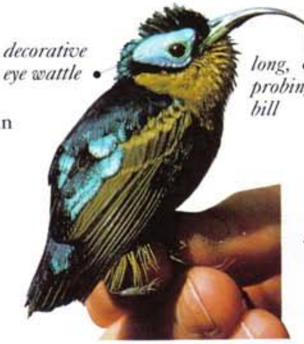
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

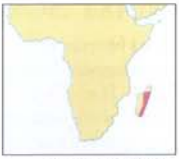
Family PHILEPITTIDAE	Species *Neodrepanis coruscans*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

WATTLED ASITY

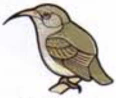
Found in dense rain forest, this species feeds at all levels from ground to canopy, taking insects and probing flowers, possibly for nectar. It can adapt to secondary forest (regrown after rain forest clearance). This quiet, rather sluggish bird is usually solitary, or lives in small family groups. After breeding, males molt to resemble the females.

- **NEST** A spherical nest covered with moss and lined with leaves, generally suspended from the end of a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Madagascar.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

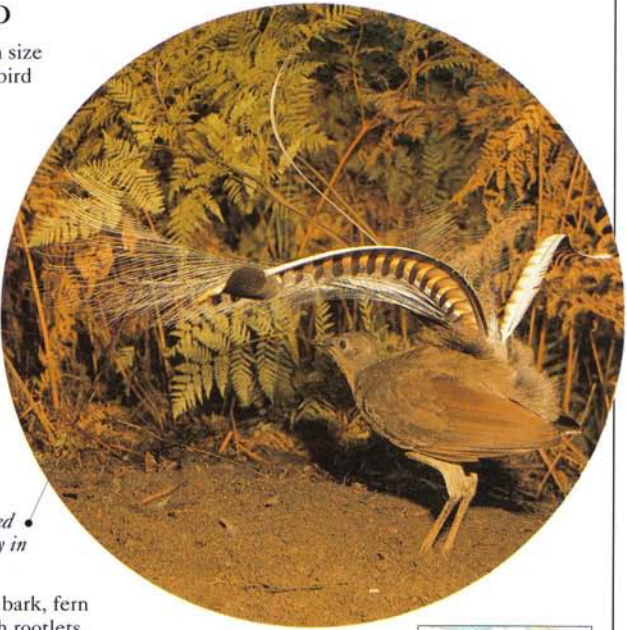
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

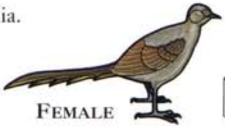
Family MENURIDAE	Species *Menura novaehollandiae*	L. 35 in (90 cm)/32 in (80 cm)

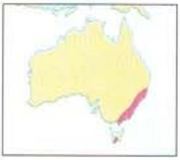
SUPERB LYREBIRD

Resembling a pheasant both in size and life-style, the Superb Lyrebird is a ground-dwelling species living in moist eucalyptus forests. It scratches the ground with its long, strong legs to reveal insects and other invertebrates. The male develops a unique, lyre-shaped tail that features in courtship dances performed on a special display mound, which he scrapes together out of damp soil. The dancing male vibrates his spread tail above his back; the display also includes a highly developed song, with elements of astonishingly clever mimicry.

- **NEST** A large, domed nest with a side entrance, made of sticks, bark, fern fronds, and moss, and lined with rootlets. The nest may be located on the ground or on a stump, tree fern, or rock.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Australia.
- **REMARKS** The lyre-shaped tail of the adult male accounts for the 4 in (10 cm) length difference between the sexes.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

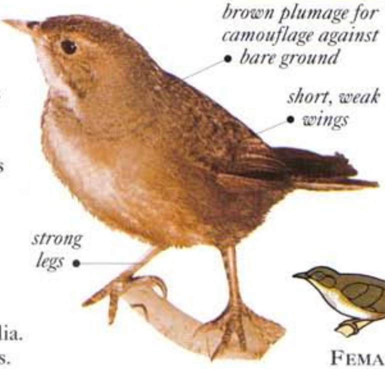
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

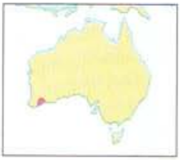
Family ATRICHORNITHIDAE	Species *Atrichornis clamosus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

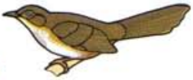
NOISY SCRUB-BIRD

This shy, secretive, and almost flightless bird lives in eucalyptus scrub. It seeks its food among dead leaves and ground litter, taking mainly small invertebrates and occasionally small lizards and frogs. Males sing loudly to proclaim their territories.

- **NEST** A domed nest in thick vegetation, placed a little above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. Australia.
- **REMARK** Endangered species.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

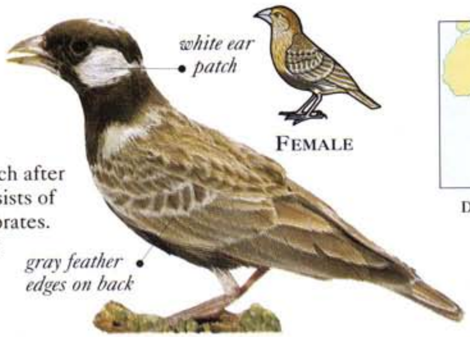
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

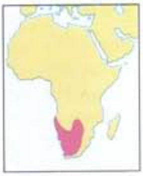
Family ALAUDIDAE	Species *Eremoptryx verticalis*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

GRAY-BACKED SPARROW-LARK

A lark of bare, dry places, this species is often seen walking or running on the ground. Occasionally, it settles on a branch after a short, low flight. The diet consists of seeds, plants, and small invertebrates.

- **NEST** A cup nest sunk in the ground, beside a stone or tuft.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.


white ear patch
FEMALE
gray feather edges on back


DISTRIBUTION

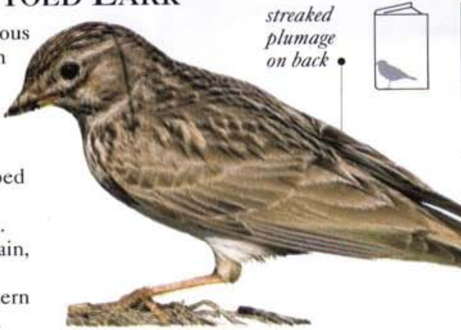
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

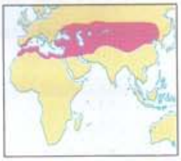
Family ALAUDIDAE	Species *Calandrella rufescens*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK

This small and inconspicuous lark inhabits arid areas with sparse vegetation. It feeds on seeds and insects. Males perform a spiraling songflight.

- **NEST** A deep, cup-shaped nest in a hollow, sheltered by a stone or a tuft of grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Spain, N. Africa, Middle East, C. Asia, E. Asia. Northeastern populations migrate south.




DISTRIBUTION

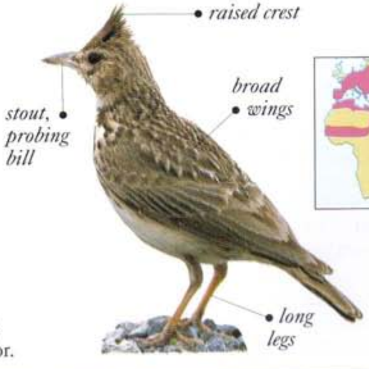
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

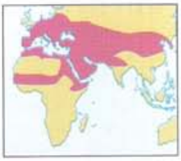
Family ALAUDIDAE	Species *Galerida cristata*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

CRESTED LARK

A stout lark with a tall crest, this species is also recognized by its heavy flight and loud, musical calls. It prefers a mixture of bare ground and vegetation and inhabits open, dry landscapes, as well as farmland. Unlike most other lark species, Crested Larks sometimes perch on bushes. They are usually seen in pairs or small parties, feeding on seeds, plants, and insects.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest made of grasses, located in a hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, Middle East, N. India, China, Africa north of the Equator.




DISTRIBUTION

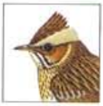
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ALAUDIDAE	Species *Lullula arborea*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

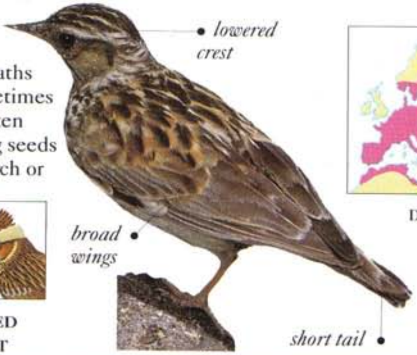
WOODLARK

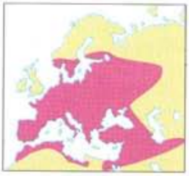
This small lark is usually found on heaths or mountain grassland: its habitat sometimes includes scattered trees on which it often perches. It feeds on the ground, taking seeds and insects. The male sings from a perch or in a long, slow songflight.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest in a hollow among grass tufts.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, N. Africa, Middle East; northeastern populations migrate west and south.



RAISED CREST





DISTRIBUTION

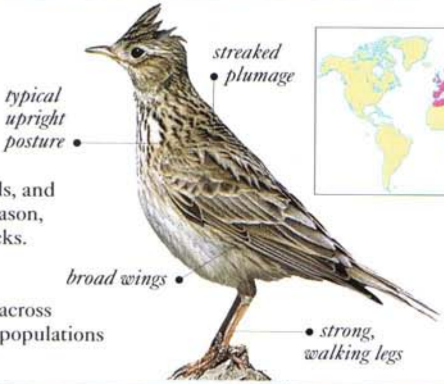
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

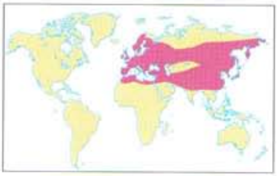
Family ALAUDIDAE	Species *Alauda arvensis*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

SKYLARK

A grassland lark famous for its aerial songflight, the Skylark prefers short grass, such as pasture. Like all larks, it walks, as opposed to hopping. It feeds on plants, seeds, and insects. Outside the breeding season, Skylarks live communally in flocks.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest in a hollow, partly hidden by grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Grasslands across Eurasia and N. Africa. Northern populations migrate southward in winter.





DISTRIBUTION

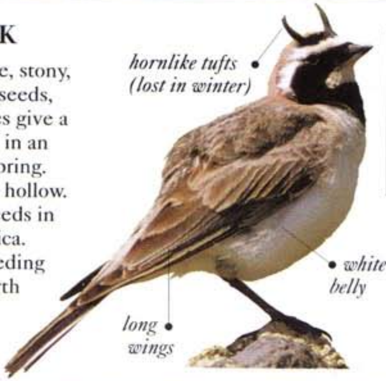
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

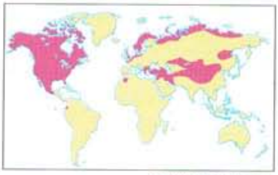
Family ALAUDIDAE	Species *Eremophila alpestris*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

HORNED LARK

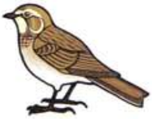
This lark forages on bare, stony, or cultivated ground for seeds, plants, and insects. Males give a weak, high pitched song in an overhead songflight in spring.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia, N. and S. America. Migrates to south of breeding range (Eurasia), or to north (S. America), or to ocean shores (W. Europe and N. America).





DISTRIBUTION



WINTER PLUMAGE

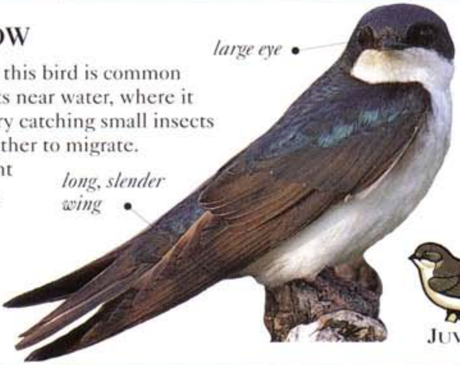
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

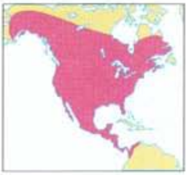
Family HIRUNDINIDAE	Species *Tachycineta bicolor*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

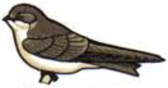
TREE SWALLOW

A hole-nesting swallow, this bird is common in thinly wooded habitats near water, where it forages over open country catching small insects in flight. Large flocks gather to migrate.

- **NEST** A lining of plant materials in a cavity, in a tree, post, or building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America. Winter range extends as far south as Colombia.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

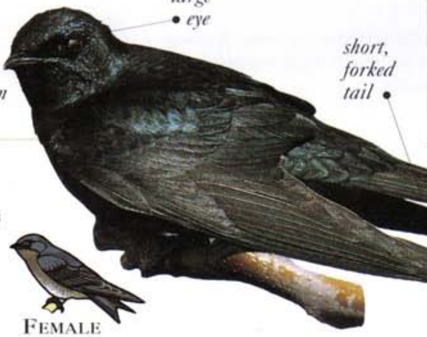
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌾 🌳 🌊	Migration Migrant

Family HIRUNDINIDAE	Species *Progne subis*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

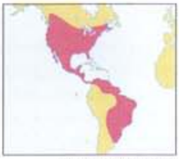
PURPLE MARTIN

This dark swallow flies over a variety of open habitats, hunting insects in the air by gliding in circles, with periods of flapping flight.

- **NEST** Tree holes lined with mud and sticks, often in nest boxes in east of range.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in USA. Winters in S.E. Brazil.



FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

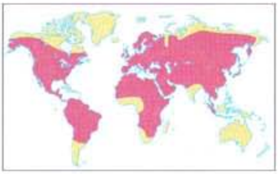
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌾 ▲	Migration Migrant

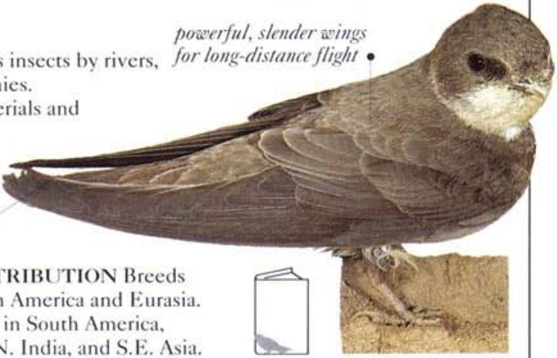
Family HIRUNDINIDAE	Species *Riparia riparia*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

BANK SWALLOW

A small, drab, swallow, this species hunts insects by rivers, lakes, and sand pits near its nesting colonies.

- **NEST** A cup nest is built of plant materials and feathers in a tunnel in a bank or cliff.


DISTRIBUTION



- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and Eurasia. Winters in South America, Africa, N. India, and S.E. Asia.

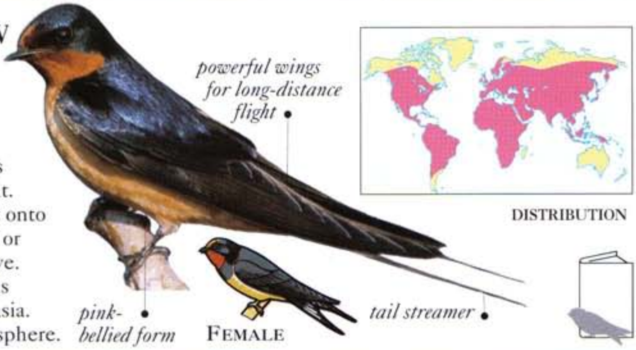
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌾 🌊 🌿	Migration Migrant

Family HIRUNDINIDAE	Species *Hirundo rustica*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

BARN SWALLOW

A familiar seasonal visitor in the Northern Hemisphere, this bird frequents open country near water, catching insects in the air, often in low flight.

- **NEST** A mud bowl built onto a small support on the wall or the roof of a building or cave.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and Eurasia. Winters in Southern Hemisphere.


powerful wings for long-distance flight
pink-bellied form
FEMALE
tail streamer

DISTRIBUTION

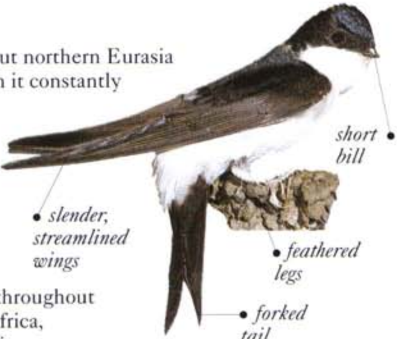
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

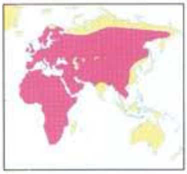
Family HIRUNDINIDAE	Species *Delichon urbica*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

HOUSE MARTIN

This bird is known throughout northern Eurasia for its summer visits on which it constantly flies in streets and parks, catching insects on the wing. It can also be seen beside pools, collecting mud for nesting.

- **NEST** A basin of mud pellets, attached to a wall, close beneath an overhang.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds throughout most of Eurasia. Winters in Africa, N. India, and parts of S.E. Asia.


short bill
slender, streamlined wings
feathered legs
forked tail



DISTRIBUTION

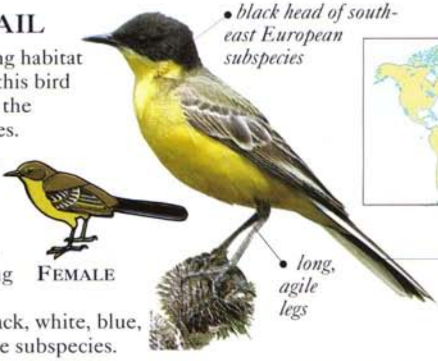
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

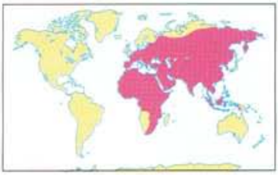
Family MOTACILLIDAE	Species *Motacilla flava*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Conspicuous in its breeding habitat of pastures and meadows, this bird is seen feeding actively on the ground, taking invertebrates.

- **NEST** A lined cup nest, placed in a hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia. Winters in S. Hemisphere.
- **REMARK** Male breeding plumage varies over the distribution – heads are black, white, blue, or yellow, depending on the subspecies.


black head of south-east European subspecies
FEMALE
long, agile legs
tail wags to help keep balance when running



DISTRIBUTION

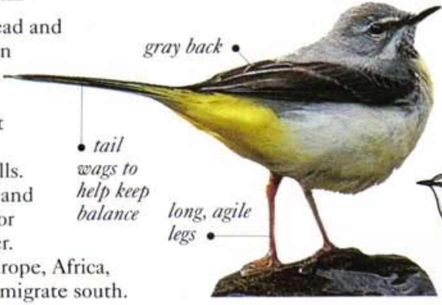
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

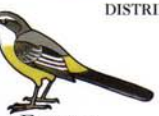
Family MOTACILLIDAE	Species *Motacilla cinerea*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

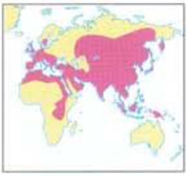
GRAY WAGTAIL

Identified by its gray head and back, this wagtail is often seen near running water, hunting insects and small crustaceans. It is notable for its lively behavior and jingling calls.

- **NEST** A cup of moss and leaves, placed in a hole or ledge near running water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, Africa, Asia. Some populations migrate south.


gray back
tail wags to help keep balance
long, agile legs


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

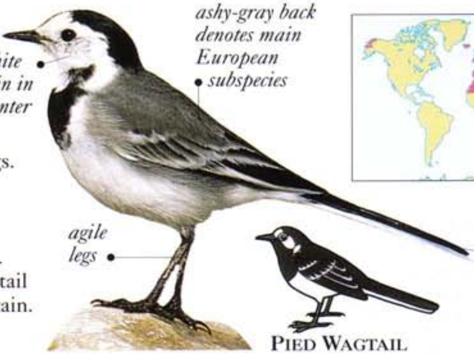
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋	Migration Partial migrant

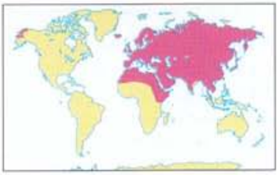
Family MOTACILLIDAE	Species *Motacilla alba*	Length 7 in (17.5 cm)

WHITE WAGTAIL

This bird inhabits open places near water, feeding on insects, and often nests close to buildings.

- **NEST** A lined cup nest, concealed in a hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, Africa, Asia, Alaska.
- **REMARK** The Pied Wagtail is a subspecies found in Britain. The male has a black back.


white chin in winter
ashy-gray back denotes main European subspecies
agile legs
tail wags to help keep balance
PIED WAGTAIL


DISTRIBUTION

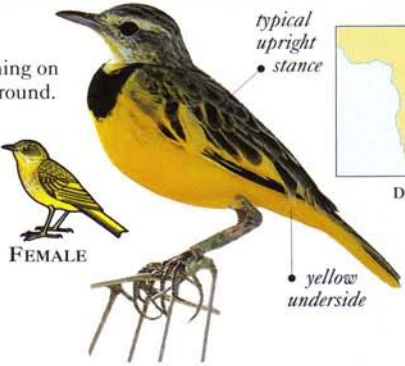
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋	Migration Partial migrant

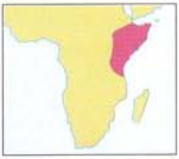
Family MOTACILLIDAE	Species *Tmetothylacus tenellus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

GOLDEN PIPIT

This attractive bird is usually seen perching on bushes or hunting invertebrates on the ground. In display it glides down from a treetop with its wings in a wide "V" over its back. Outside the breeding season, birds live in small family groups.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of stems and grasses, with a lining of rootlets, well hidden on the ground, in grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Africa from Sudan and Ethiopia south to Tanzania.
- **REMARK** This is the only species of pipit to have colorful plumage.


typical upright stance
FEMALE
yellow underside


DISTRIBUTION

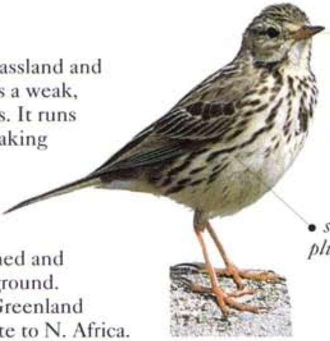
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

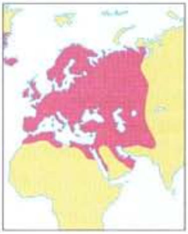
Family MOTACILLIDAE	Species *Anthus pratensis*	Length 5¼ in (14.5 cm)

MEADOW PIPIT

A streaked, brown bird of grassland and moors, the Meadow Pipit has a weak, jerky flight and squeaky calls. It runs and walks on open ground, taking insects, worms, and seeds. It performs a songflight with a parachuting fall.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass stems and blades, lined and tucked into a hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Greenland to C. Asia. Some birds migrate to N. Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

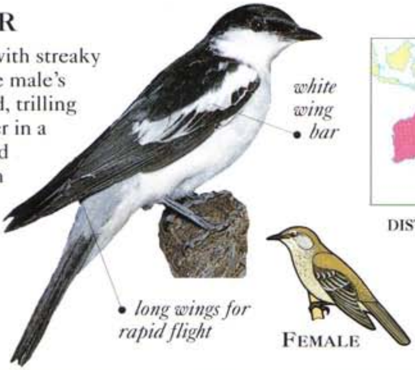
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

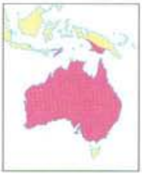
Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE	Species *Lalage sueurii*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

WHITE-WINGED TRILLER

Normally an inconspicuous brown bird with streaky wings, this species gets its name from the male's dashing, pied breeding plumage and loud, trilling song. Pairs often nest close to one another in a semi-colonial arrangement. White-winged Trillers feed on insects, taken either from foliage or while walking on the ground.

- **NEST** A shallow, saucer-shaped nest made of roots and grass, bound to a tree fork with spiderwebs.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia. Winters in N. Australia, New Guinea, and the island of Timor in Indonesia.




DISTRIBUTION

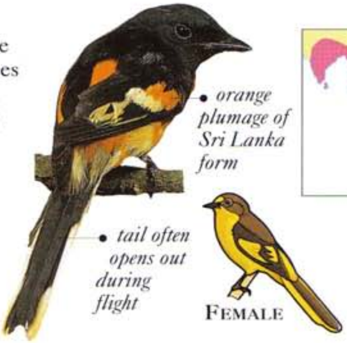
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

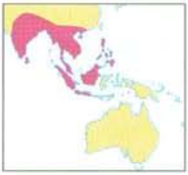
Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE	Species *Pericrocotus flammeus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

SCARLET MINIVET

This slender, vivid bird flits restlessly in the rain forest canopy, making short, quick chases after insects. This species is usually seen in flocks of up to 20 or more, often associating with mixed-species hunting parties.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of lichens, bound with spiderwebs and ornamented with bark flakes. Usually high in the trees.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Indian subcontinent, S. China, and much of S.E. Asia.
- **REMARK** The scarlet plumage of the males is replaced by orange in the Indian subcontinent south of the Himalayas.


• *orange plumage of Sri Lanka form*
• *tail often opens out during flight*
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

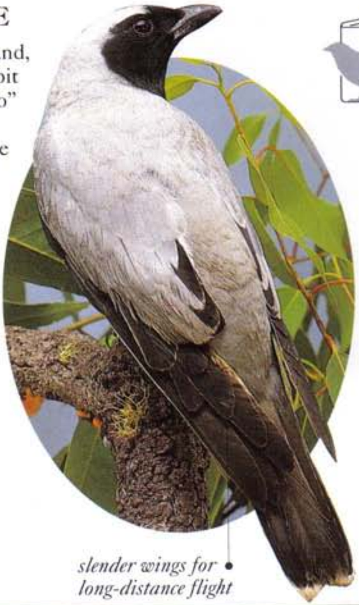
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Species *Coracina novaehollandiae*

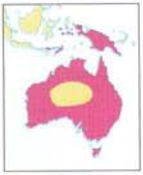
Length 13 in (33 cm)

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE



A slender, tree-dwelling bird of thinly spaced woodland, this species has an undulating style of flight and a habit of shuffling its wings just after alighting. The "cuckoo" in its name refers to the long, slender body shape. The "shrike" refers to its style of feeding, taking large insects and their larvae from foliage or the ground, and sometimes eating berries. The call is either a grating "kaark" or a gentler, whistling sound.

- **NEST** A small, saucer-shaped nest made of dry twigs and bark, fixed together with spider-webs, and built in the fork of a tree branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia; migrant populations winter in northern states and New Guinea.
- **REMARK** Migration varies between local populations. Some travel to New Guinea, some a shorter distance, while others merely roam nomadically within Australia. These birds settle in places where recent rain has resulted in fresh growth of plants, flowers, and insects. If conditions are suitable, the birds breed.


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

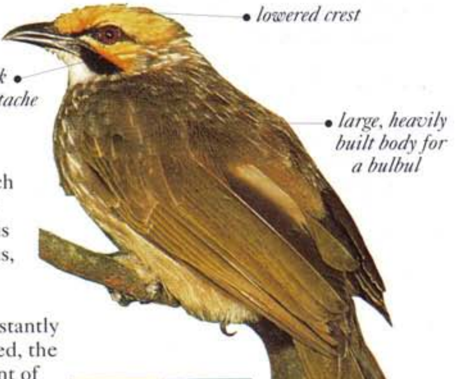
Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

Family PYCNONOTIDAE

Species *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*

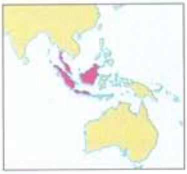
Length 11 in (28 cm)

STRAW-HEADED BULBUL



The largest of all the bulbuls, this bird is usually found in trees and bushes. It occurs at the rain forest edge and in secondary growth (areas where trees have regrown after forest clearance). Its diet consists chiefly of fruit, buds, and berries, which it supplements with some insects. The song is loud and strong, consisting of a clear, melodious warbling. This species is shy and inconspicuous, more often heard than seen. Among its own flocks, which usually consist of half-a-dozen birds, it behaves in a quarrelsome manner, constantly uttering a harsh and noisy chatter. When excited, the birds raise the short, bristly feathers on the front of their crowns to form a small, straw-colored crest.

- **NEST** A shallow, cup-shaped nest of rootlets, grass, and leaves, placed in a bush or low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, and Java.
- **REMARK** This bird has become rare in much of its range as a result of trapping for the local cagebird trade.


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

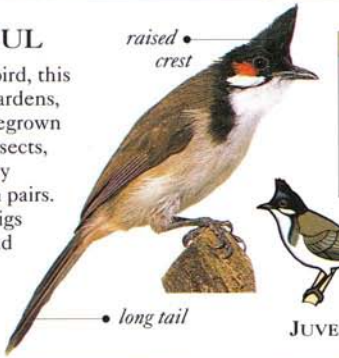
Migration Non-migrant

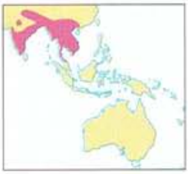
Family PYCNONOTIDAE	Species *Pycnonotus jocosus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL

An agile, active, and sometimes noisy bird, this bulbul is commonly seen in orchards, gardens, town parks, and secondary woodland (regrown after forest clearance). It searches for insects, fruit, and buds, making characteristically short, jerky flights and often working in pairs.

- **NEST** A shallow, neat cup nest of twigs and dead leaves, with finer lining, bound with spiderwebs, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of India, China, and S.E. Asia. Introduced in USA and Australia.




DISTRIBUTION

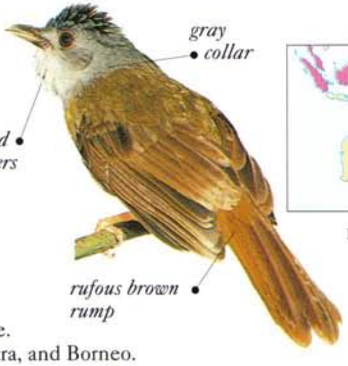
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

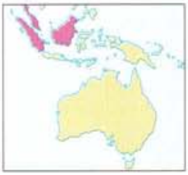
Family PYCNONOTIDAE	Species *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

YELLOW-BELLIED BULBUL

A common bulbul of lowland rain forest, this species is recognized by its combination of a puffy white throat, yellow underparts, and the absence of a crest. Being relatively tame, it is easy to approach. Normally a solitary bird, it keeps to the lower levels of the rain forest, where it feeds mainly on berries and small beetles.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest made of plant fibers, lined with fine coconut hairs, and placed low above ground in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.




DISTRIBUTION

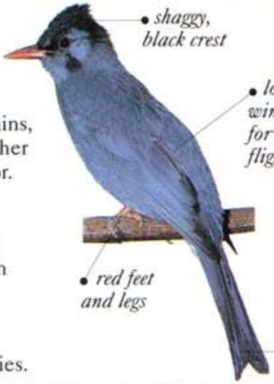
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

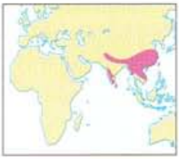
Family PYCNONOTIDAE	Species *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

BLACK BULBUL

Loose-plumaged, nervously active and noisy, the Black Bulbul inhabits oak, pine, and rhododendron forests in mountains, feeding on berries and larger fruits. At higher altitudes, it occurs only as a summer visitor.

- **NEST** A neat, flimsy cup made of grass, leaves, and moss, in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Indian subcontinent and parts of China and S.E. Asia. Northern populations migrate southward in winter.
- **REMARK** There are several distinct geographical forms of this bird, the one shown here being the Himalayan subspecies.




DISTRIBUTION

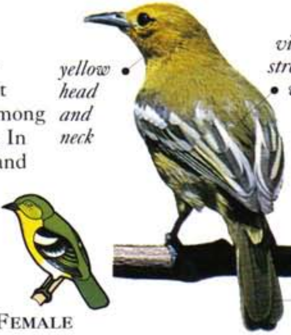
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 ⛰	Migration Partial migrant

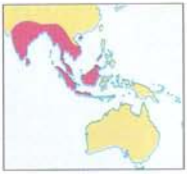
Family IRENIDAE | Species *Aegithina tiphia* | Length 5½ in (14 cm)

COMMON IORA

This small, active bird is seen either in pairs or in mixed hunting parties. It searches for insects and caterpillars among foliage in rain forests and plantations. In display, the male fluffs out his rump and flank feathers, jumps into the air, and glides back down to his perch.

- **NEST** A neat cup nest made of plant material, coated with spiderwebs, in a twig fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** India and S.E. Asia to Borneo and Java.


yellow head and neck
vividly streaked wings
short, square tail
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

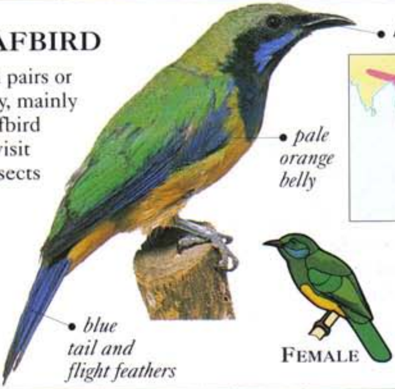
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

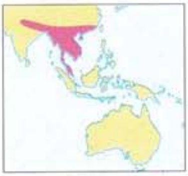
Family IRENIDAE | Species *Chloropsis hardwickii* | Length 7½ in (19 cm).

ORANGE-BELLIED LEAFBIRD

This acrobatic species is often seen in pairs or small parties high in the foliage canopy, mainly in hill forest. The Orange-bellied Leafbird commonly joins other bird species to visit blossoming trees, where it feeds on insects and spiders, as well as taking nectar with its special brush-tipped tongue.

- **NEST** A cradle of roots and fibers, suspended between twigs near the end of a tree branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From the eastern Himalayas and S. China to the Malay Peninsula.


long, curved bill
pale orange belly
blue tail and flight feathers
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

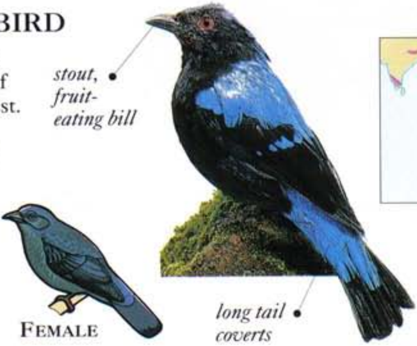
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 ▲ | Migration Non-migrant

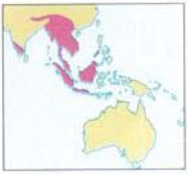
Family IRENIDAE | Species *Irena puella* | Length 10½ in (27 cm)

ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD

Though not always noticed in the tree shade, this is a common bird of both deciduous and evergreen forest. It is often seen in small groups, feeding on fruits in the tops of tall trees. Its presence is given away by its flowing, musical calls.

- **NEST** A mossy cup nest on a twig base, lined with rootlets, placed in the fork of a twig.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.W. India; and from E. Himalayas through S.E. Asia to Borneo and Java.


stout, fruit-eating bill
long tail coverts
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

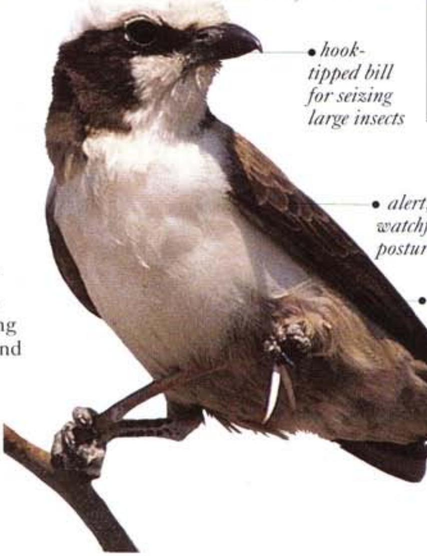
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

Family LANIIDAE	Species *Eurocephalus anguitimens*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

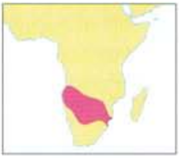
SOUTHERN WHITE-CROWNED SHRIKE

An unusually sociable shrike, this species is usually seen in pairs or small parties. It perches conspicuously on top, or on the outer branches of trees in woodlands or savanna (tropical or subtropical grassland). Like other shrikes it forages for insects and other prey by dropping from a perch to the ground, as well as feeding on berries. Its flight is strong and direct, with shallow, quick wingbeats.

- **NEST** A thick-walled cup nest, made of plant fibers and bound with spiderwebs, located in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.



• *broad, white crown*
• *hook-tipped bill for seizing large insects*
• *alert, watchful posture*
• *typical view of the bird – high up on a prominent perch*



DISTRIBUTION

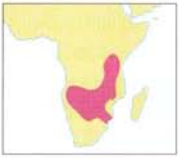
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family LANIIDAE	Species *Corvinella melanoleuca*	Length 17½ in (45 cm)

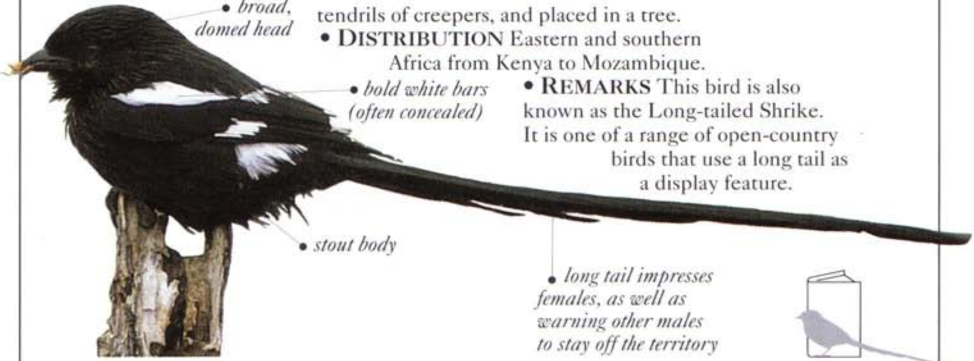
MAGPIE SHRIKE

Unmistakable with its long, black tail, this species inhabits open, semi-arid woodland, often of acacia trees, and scrub. Unusually sociable for a shrike, it is generally seen in noisy groups of up to a dozen individuals. The Magpie Shrike perches on the tops of trees and bushes, dropping down to seize its prey, which consists of insects and small reptiles.

- **NEST** A bulky, cup-shaped nest made of twigs, grass stems, and roots, lined with finer rootlets and the stems and tendrils of creepers, and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eastern and southern Africa from Kenya to Mozambique.
- **REMARKS** This bird is also known as the Long-tailed Shrike. It is one of a range of open-country birds that use a long tail as a display feature.



DISTRIBUTION



• *broad, domed head*
• *bold white bars (often concealed)*
• *stout body*
• *long tail impresses females, as well as warning other males to stay off the territory*

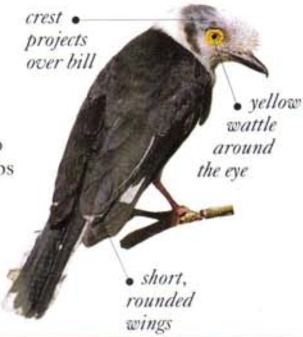
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

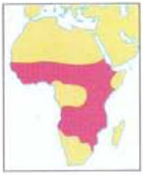
Family LANIIDAE	Species *Prionops plumatus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

WHITE HELMET SHRIKE

Unlike many shrikes, this species is exceptionally gregarious at all times, forming groups of up to 20 birds, usually consisting of siblings from several broods. It forages at all levels, from the forest canopy to the ground, taking insects and spiders. Groups roost together on branches in huddled rows.

- **NEST** A compact cup nest made of bark shreds, bound on the outside with spiderswebs, and placed in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa south of the Sahara.




DISTRIBUTION

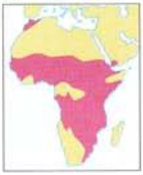
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

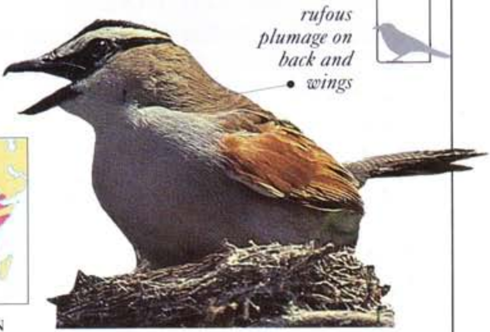
Family LANIIDAE	Species *Tchagra senegala*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA

Like most shrikes, this bird is usually solitary or seen in pairs. It forages for invertebrates and other small animals on or near the ground, and flies low between bushes in fluttering flight. In its display flight it rises from a bush, calling, then glides down.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest of fine twigs and roots, lined with finer rootlets, in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.W. Africa; parts of Africa south of the Sahara; S.W. Arabian Peninsula.


DISTRIBUTION



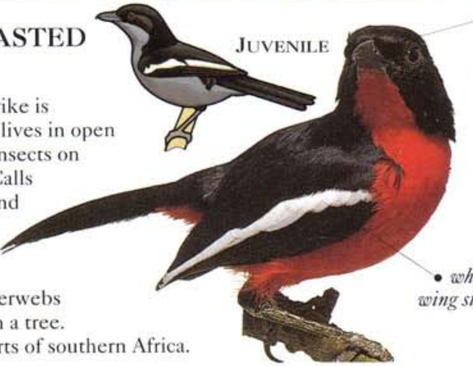
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

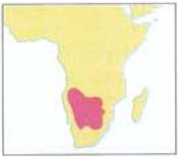
Family LANIIDAE	Species *Laniarius atrococcineus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

CRIMSON-BREASTED GONOLEK

This vividly colored shrike is secretive in behavior. It lives in open woodland, foraging for insects on the ground or in trees. Calls are loud and bell-like, and mating pairs often sing together in "duets."

- **NEST** A bark bowl, secured with spiderwebs and lined with fibers, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

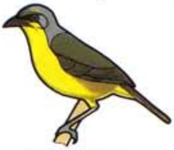
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family LANIIDAE | Species *Telephorus zeylonus* | Length 9 in (23 cm)

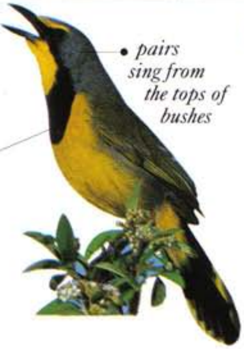
BOKMAKIERIE

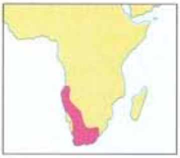
This shrike perches in conspicuous places on bushy hillsides with rocks, in river-valley scrub, and in gardens. It hunts low in the undergrowth for insects and small animals. Pairs sing "duetting" calls all year round.

- **NEST** A bulky bowl made of twigs and stems, usually in a dense bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.



JUVENILE


pairs sing from the tops of bushes
typical "duetting" posture



DISTRIBUTION

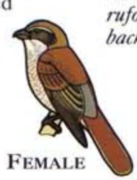
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family LANIIDAE | Species *Lanius collurio* | Length 7 in (18 cm)

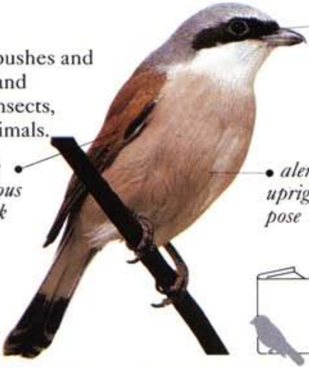
RED-BACKED SHRIKE

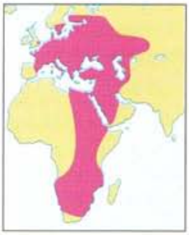
This predatorlike songbird is seen in bushes and scrub, watching from a vantage point, and swooping on prey. It feeds mainly on insects, sometimes on birds and other small animals.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest of grass and rootlets, placed in a dense bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia from S.E. Britain to W. Siberia. Migrates southward, some birds reaching South Africa.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

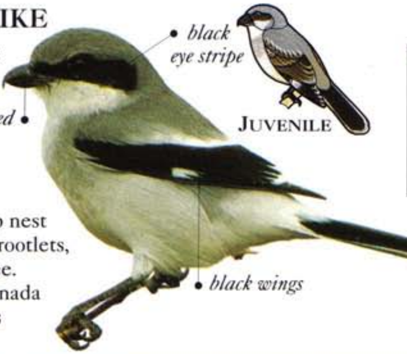
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Migrant

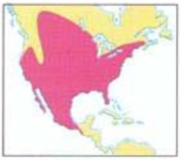
Family LANIIDAE | Species *Lanius ludovicianus* | Length 8½ in (22 cm)

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Thinly wooded, open country is the main habitat of this shrike. It moves about in short flights from one lookout perch to another, feeding by swooping to the ground to seize prey, mainly insects.

- **NEST** A well-lined, bulky cup nest made of twigs, weed stems, and rootlets, placed in a thick shrub or low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S. Canada to Mexico. Northern populations migrate southward.





DISTRIBUTION

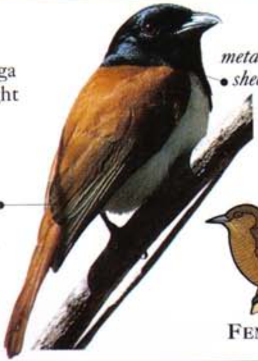
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

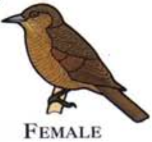
Family VANGIDAE | Species *Schetba rufa* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

RUFOUS VANGA

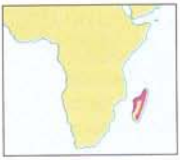
Strictly a rain forest species, the Rufous Vanga is usually seen in family groups of four to eight birds. It is a rather inactive hunter, often spending long intervals watching from a low branch before swooping down to the ground to seize prey. It feeds on a variety of insects but will also take lizards or any similar-size animals.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Madagascar.
- **REMARK** Belongs to a family of birds found only in Madagascar.


metallic sheen
reddish brown back and wings



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

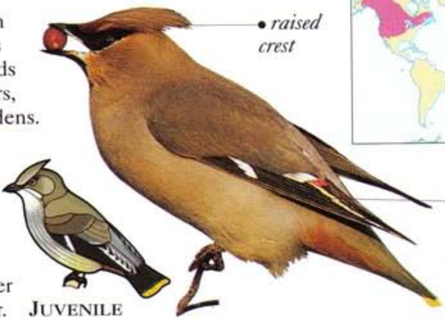
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

Family BOMBYCILLIDAE | Species *Bombycilla garrulus* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

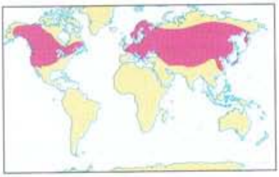
BOHEMIAN WAXWING

Normally found in northern forests, where it eats berries and insects, this bird expands its range in exceptional years, appearing in towns and gardens.

- **NEST** A cup nest on a conifer branch, usually hidden in thick foliage.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada, N.W. USA, and N. Eurasia. Southern limits of the winter range vary from year to year.


raised crest
waxy blobs on secondary feather tips

JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

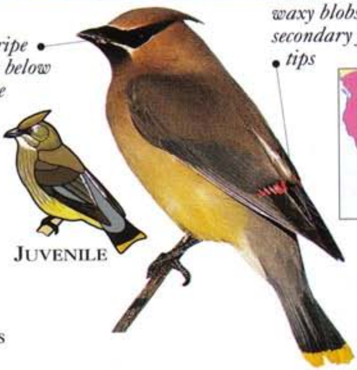
Plumage Sexes differ slightly | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Migrant

Family BOMBYCILLIDAE | Species *Bombycilla cedrorum* | Length 7¼ in (18 cm)

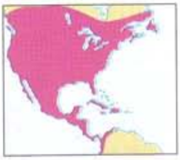
CEDAR WAXWING

This species is plainer in color than the Northern Waxwing and lives in a wider variety of habitats including both broadleaved and coniferous forest, open woodland, and thickets. It feeds on a variety of small fruits and sometimes also catches insects in gliding flight above the trees.

- **NEST** A stout cup nest hidden in dense foliage, often high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada and much of USA. Winter range extends from S. Canada to N. South America.


eye stripe bends below the eye
waxy blobs on secondary feather tips

JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

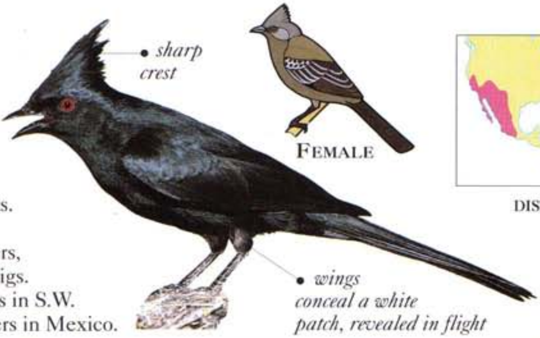
Plumage Sexes differ slightly | Habitat 🌳 🌳 🌳 | Migration Migrant

Family BOMBYCILLIDAE | Species *Phainopepla nitens* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

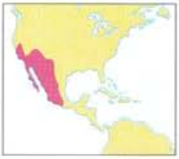
PHAINOPEPLA

Recognized by its direct, buoyant flight, this bird breeds either in semi-desert or in riparian areas in deserts. It feeds on mistletoe and buckthorn berries, also catching insects.

- **NEST** A well concealed cup nest made of plant fibers, strengthened with small twigs.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.W. USA and W. Mexico. Winters in Mexico.



sharp crest
FEMALE
wings conceal a white patch, revealed in flight


DISTRIBUTION

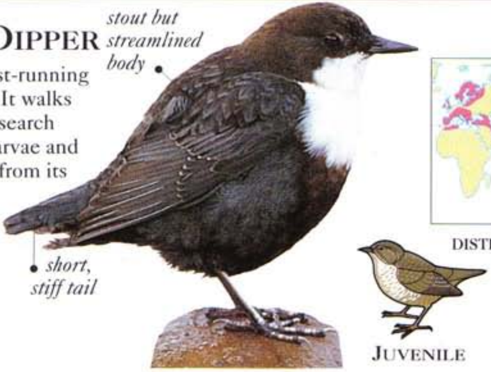
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌾 🌳 ⛰ 🌵 | Migration Migrant

Family CINCLIDAE | Species *Cinclus cinclus* | Length 7 in (18 cm)

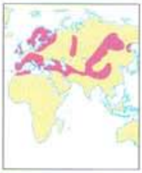
WHITE-THROATED DIPPER

This species lives and nests on fast-running streams, especially in hill country. It walks and even swims underwater in its search for prey, which consists of insect larvae and crustaceans. The name is derived from its frequent "bobbing" movements.

- **NEST** Large and spherical with a side entrance, built over running water, and made of moss, grass, and leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mainly mountainous and hilly regions of Eurasia and N.W. Africa.



stout but streamlined body
short, stiff tail
JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

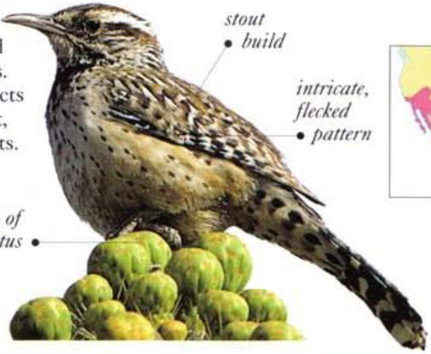
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌊 ≋ ▲ | Migration Partial migrant

Family TROGLODYTIDAE | Species *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus* | Length 8½ in (22 cm)

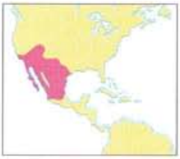
CACTUS WREN

Living in arid landscapes, this bird often sings from the top of a cactus. It feeds on the ground, taking insects and invertebrates, and makes short, slow flights with whirring wingbeats.

- **NEST** Spherical, made of dry vegetation, with an entrance tunnel at the side, in a cactus or thorny bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of S.W. USA and Mexico.
- **REMARK** The largest North American wren.



stout build
intricate, flecked pattern
top of cactus


DISTRIBUTION

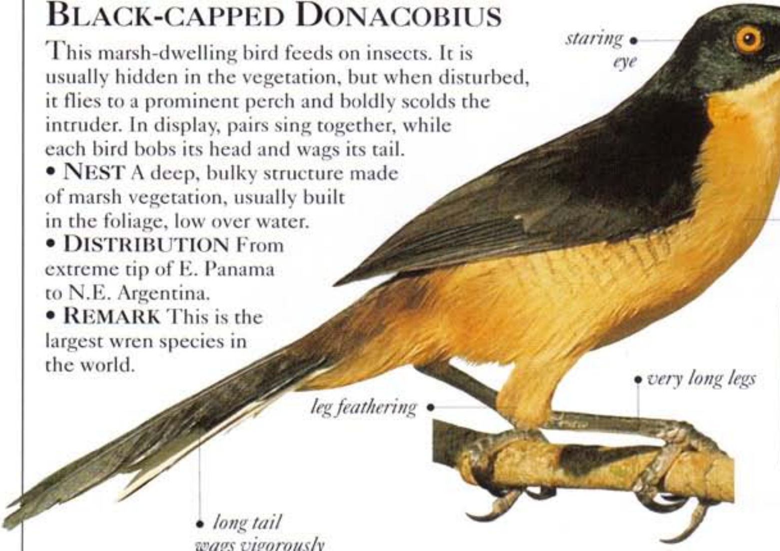
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌵 🌾 | Migration Non-migrant

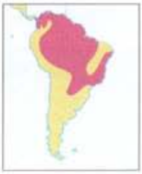
Family TROGLODYTIDAE	Species *Donacobius atricapillus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

BLACK-CAPPED DONACOBIUS

This marsh-dwelling bird feeds on insects. It is usually hidden in the vegetation, but when disturbed, it flies to a prominent perch and boldly scolds the intruder. In display, pairs sing together, while each bird bobs its head and wags its tail.

- **NEST** A deep, bulky structure made of marsh vegetation, usually built in the foliage, low over water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From extreme tip of E. Panama to N.E. Argentina.
- **REMARK** This is the largest wren species in the world.


staring eye
stout, strong bill
typical alert pose
very long legs
leg feathering
long tail wags vigorously in display


DISTRIBUTION

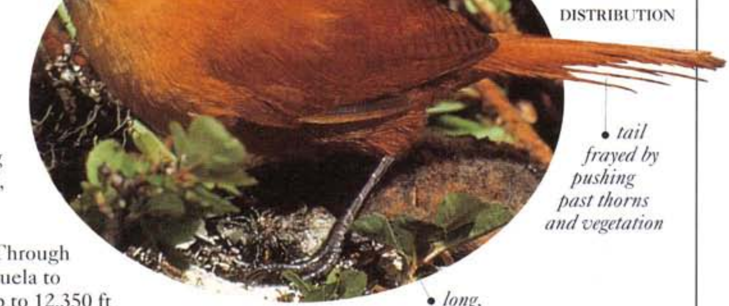
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

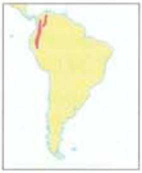
Family TROGLODYTIDAE	Species *Cinnycerthia unirufa*	Length 7¼ in (18 cm)

RUFOUS WREN

Inhabiting humid, mossy rain forests, forest borders, and dense, tangled woodlands, the Rufous Wren is usually seen in families or small groups. These birds will either forage independently for insects in the lower levels of the foliage or join mixed-species flocks. Pairs often sing duets together in loud, flutelike tones.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Through the Andes from Venezuela to Peru, at altitudes of up to 12,350 ft (3,800 m), where the climate is temperate.
- **REMARK** Most birds are a uniform rufous brown, but some individuals have paler plumage on the head.


pale-headed form
tail frayed by pushing past thorns and vegetation
long, hopping legs


DISTRIBUTION

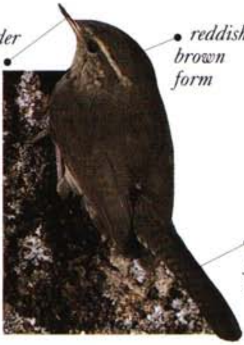
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

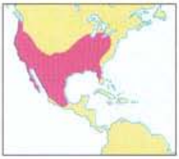
Family TROGLODYTIDAE	Species *Thryomanes bewickii*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

BEWICK'S WREN

Common but not easily seen, Bewick's Wren is a small bird with reddish brown or gray-brown plumage and a long, narrow stripe above the eye. It has a characteristic habit of flicking its tail sideways as it works through the undergrowth, feeding on insects.

- **NEST** A bulky, deep cup nest, made from plant material, feathers, and wool, placed in a crevice or often in a bird box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of USA and N. Mexico. Some northern populations migrate south within this range in winter.




DISTRIBUTION

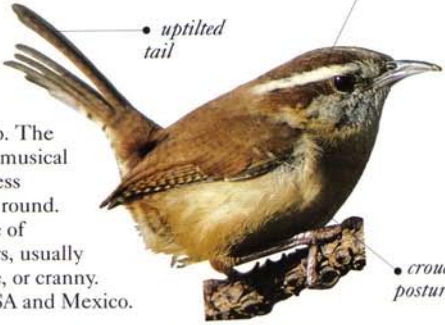
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

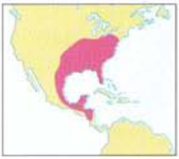
Family TROGLODYTIDAE	Species *Thryothorus ludovicianus*	Length 5¾ in (14.5 cm)

CAROLINA WREN

A medium-size wren, this bird hides in the undergrowth, where it searches for insects. Its habitats include gardens, woods, farmland, and scrub. The song, consisting of a short, musical phrase repeated with endless variations, is heard all year round.

- **NEST** A bulky structure of leaves, grasses, and feathers, usually located in a hole, brushpile, or cranny.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. USA and Mexico.




DISTRIBUTION

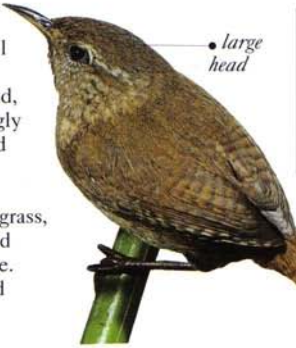
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

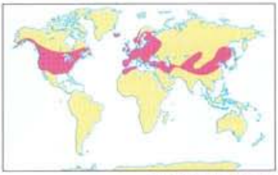
Family TROGLODYTIDAE	Species *Troglodytes troglodytes*	Length 3¼ in (8 cm)

WINTER WREN

This tiny bird, with its slender bill and secretive manner, is found in forests, woods, farmlands, grassland, and gardens. It is usually seen singly as it busily seeks insects in tangled cover. The explosive song is loud for a bird of this diminutive size.

- **NEST** A dome made of leaves, grass, and moss, with a side entrance, and placed in a crevice or sheltered site.
- **DISTRIBUTION** A widespread species in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere.




DISTRIBUTION

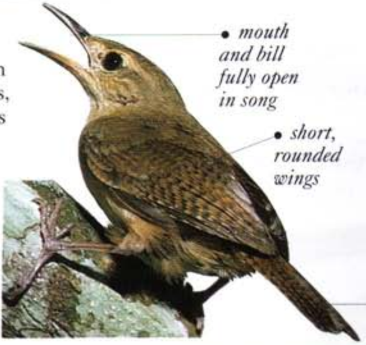
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

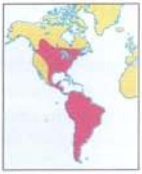
Family TROGLODYTIDAE | Species *Troglodytes aedon* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

HOUSE WREN

This abundant and widespread wren can be found in gardens, orchards, farmyards, open woodland, and woodland edges. Its exuberant song is easily heard, but it keeps itself well within cover and is less often seen. It feeds on insects.

- **NEST** A domed nest made of moss and twigs with a side entrance, placed in a hole in a tree or broken branch, or in a nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Widespread in North, Central, and South America.




DISTRIBUTION

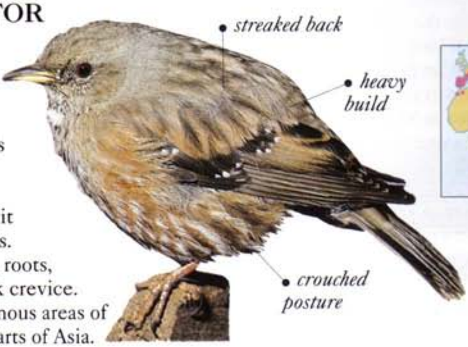
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

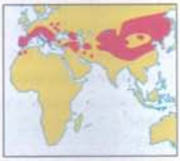
Family PRUNELLIDAE | Species *Prunella collaris* | Length 7 in (18 cm)

ALPINE ACCENTOR

An inconspicuous, ground-dwelling bird, this species breeds in rocky areas at the altitude of the alpine meadows. In summer it feeds on small insects, changing its diet to fruit and seeds during winter months, when it migrates down to lower levels.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grass, roots, mosses, and lichens, in a rock crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountainous areas of N.W. Africa, S. Europe, and parts of Asia.




DISTRIBUTION

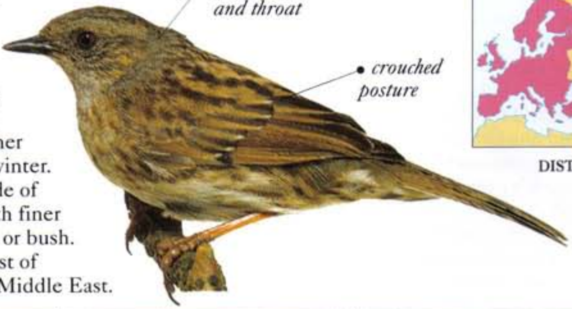
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

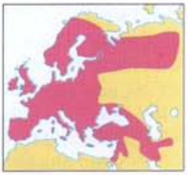
Family PRUNELLIDAE | Species *Prunella modularis* | Length 5½ in (14 cm)

DUNNOCK

This slim, streaked bird feeds unobtrusively on the ground most of the time, flitting up to a perch to utter its quiet, repeated, single note. It feeds on insects in summer and mainly on seeds in winter.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass and moss, lined with finer fibers, placed in a hedge or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Most of Europe and parts of the Middle East.



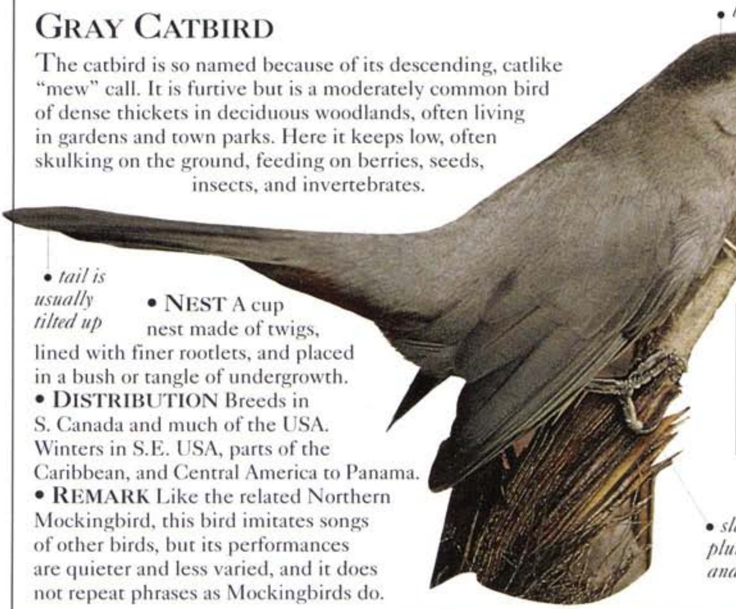

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

Family MIMIDAE	Species *Dumetella carolinensis*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

GRAY CATBIRD

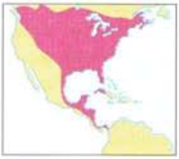
The catbird is so named because of its descending, catlike "mew" call. It is furtive but is a moderately common bird of dense thickets in deciduous woodlands, often living in gardens and town parks. Here it keeps low, often skulking on the ground, feeding on berries, seeds, insects, and invertebrates.



• **NEST** A cup nest made of twigs, lined with finer rootlets, and placed in a bush or tangle of undergrowth.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada and much of the USA. Winters in S.E. USA, parts of the Caribbean, and Central America to Panama.

• **REMARK** Like the related Northern Mockingbird, this bird imitates songs of other birds, but its performances are quieter and less varied, and it does not repeat phrases as Mockingbirds do.



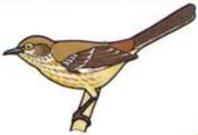
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

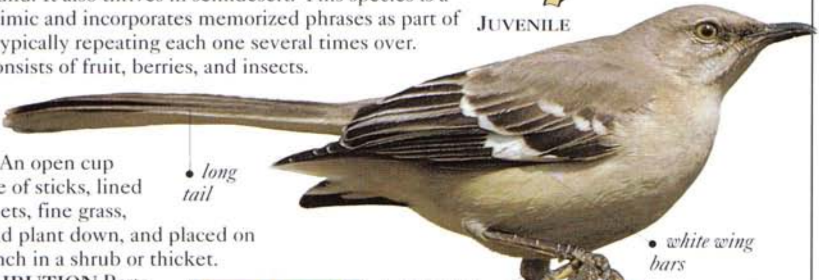
Family MIMIDAE	Species *Mimus polyglottos*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

A bold, noisy, and aggressive bird, this species is willing to live among humans, as long as gardens or woods with thickets can be found. It also thrives in semidesert. This species is a skillful mimic and incorporates memorized phrases as part of its song, typically repeating each one several times over. Its diet consists of fruit, berries, and insects.



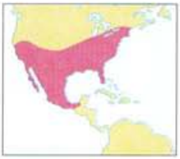
JUVENILE



• **NEST** An open cup nest made of sticks, lined with rootlets, fine grass, leaves, and plant down, and placed on a low branch in a shrub or thicket.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of USA and most of Mexico. Northern populations migrate south within this range in winter.

• **REMARK** The bird's name is a reference to its mimicry of other birds.



DISTRIBUTION

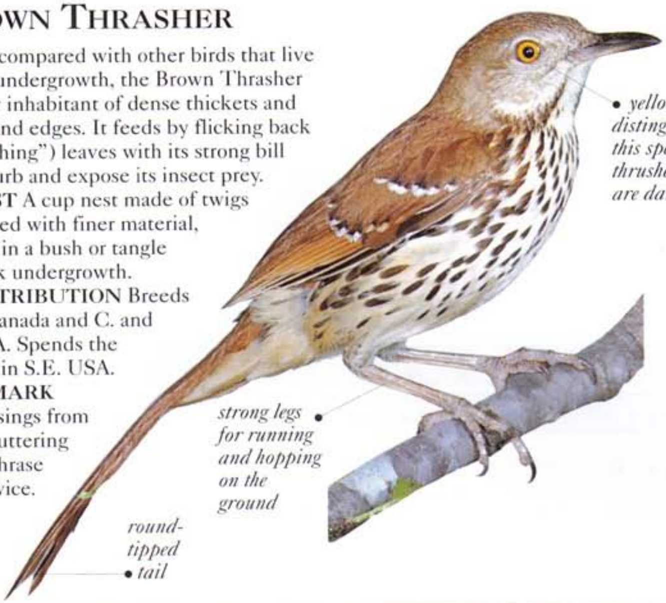
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

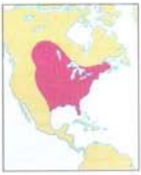
Family MIMIDAE	Species *Toxostoma rufum*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

BROWN THRASHER

Large compared with other birds that live in the undergrowth, the Brown Thrasher is a shy inhabitant of dense thickets and woodland edges. It feeds by flicking back ("thrashing") leaves with its strong bill to disturb and expose its insect prey.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of twigs and lined with finer material, placed in a bush or tangle of thick undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada and C. and E. USA. Spends the winter in S.E. USA.
- **REMARK** Often sings from cover, uttering each phrase only twice.


yellow eye distinguishes this species from thrushes, which are dark-eyed
strong legs for running and hopping on the ground
round-tipped tail


DISTRIBUTION

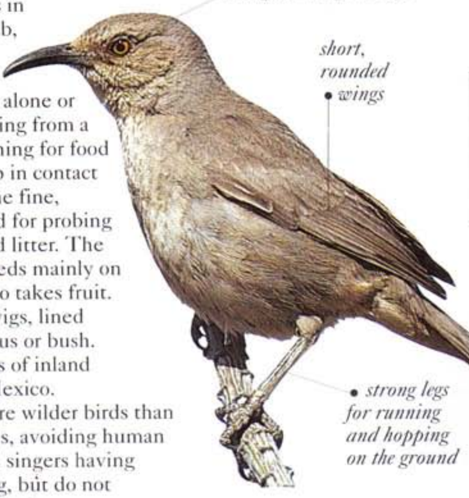
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

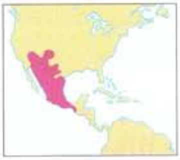
Family MIMIDAE	Species *Toxostoma curvirostre*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER

This thrushlike bird lives in arid brush and desert scrub, along streamsides and canyons. It has a bold appearance and is usually alone or in pairs, often seen watching from a prominent perch or searching for food on the ground. Birds keep in contact with short, sharp calls. The fine, curved bill is well adapted for probing and inspecting the ground litter. The Curve-billed Thrasher feeds mainly on insects but sometimes also takes fruit.

- **NEST** A cup nest of twigs, lined with hair, placed in a cactus or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of inland S.W. USA and much of Mexico.
- **REMARK** Thrashers are wilder birds than mockingbirds and catbirds, avoiding human habitation. They are loud singers having an elaborate, musical song, but do not mimic the songs of other birds.


bright, orange-red eye
short, rounded wings
strong legs for running and hopping on the ground


DISTRIBUTION

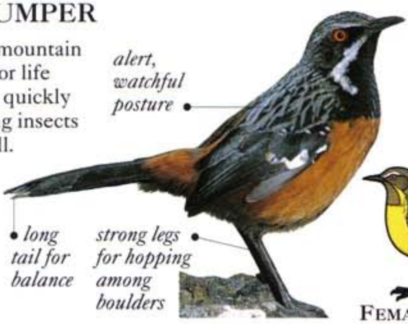
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family TURDIDAE	Species *Chaetops frenatus*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

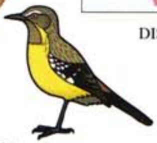
RUFOUS ROCK-JUMPER

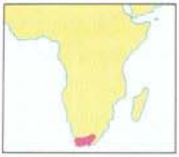
Found exclusively on rocky mountain slopes, this bird is designed for life among the boulders, running quickly over rock surfaces and seeking insects and lizards. It has a piping call.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of coarse grass, rushes, lichens, and sticks, lined with roots and hairs, on the ground near a rock.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Part of South Africa.



alert, watchful posture
long tail for balance
strong legs for hopping among boulders


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

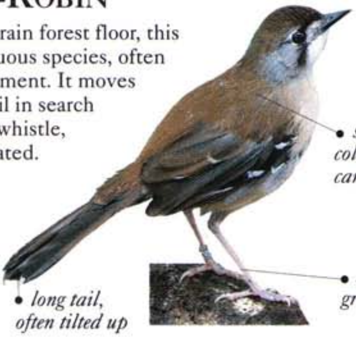
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family TURDIDAE	Species *Drymodes superciliaris*	Length 8¾ in (22 cm)

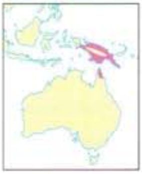
NORTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN

A slender robin that lives on the rain forest floor, this is an intensely shy and inconspicuous species, often difficult to see in its dark environment. It moves with springy hops and uptilted tail in search of insects. Its call is a loud, shrill whistle, which it will utter in reply if imitated.

- **NEST** A circular depression scratched in the ground, roughly lined with wiry tendrils of plants, fibers, and leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea and Australia (N.E. Queensland).



soft colors for camouflage
long legs for ground feeding
long tail, often tilted up


DISTRIBUTION

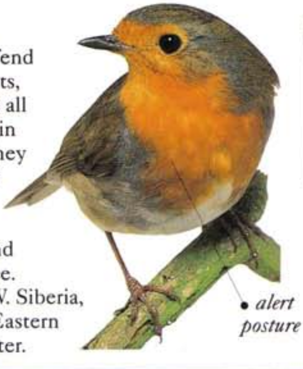
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

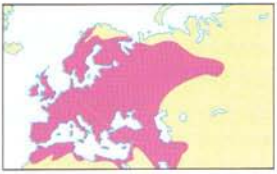
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Erithacus rubecula*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

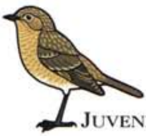
EUROPEAN ROBIN

Both male and female robins defend territories, display their red breasts, and sing from prominent perches all through winter. Robins are tame in western Europe but in the east they are shy, woodland birds. The diet consists of worms and insects, taken mainly from the ground.

- **NEST** A bulky nest of moss and leaves, lined with hair, in a crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia to W. Siberia, N. Africa, and the Middle East. Eastern populations migrate south in winter.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

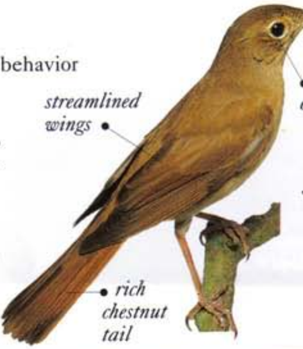
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Partial migrant

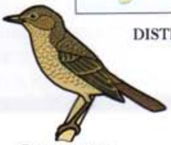
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Luscinia megarhynchos*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

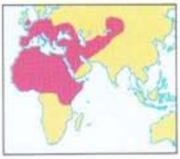
NIGHTINGALE

The somber colors and unobtrusive behavior of the Nightingale are compensated for by its varied, musical song. It inhabits woodland and undergrowth, feeding on insects, berries, and fruit.

- **NEST** A thick cup made of dead leaves, lined with fine grass and hairs, at ground level in a thicket.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in parts of Europe, N. Africa, Middle East, and C. Asia. Winters in Africa and Arabian Peninsula.


large eye
streamlined wings
rich chestnut tail


JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

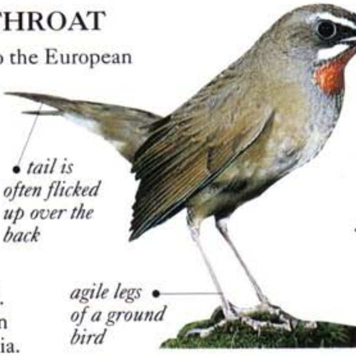
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

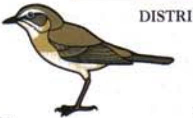
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Luscinia calliope*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

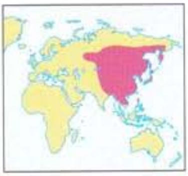
SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT

This bird is similar in build to the European Robin apart from its stronger, longer legs, but is noticeably different in plumage. The Rubythroat breeds in dense conifer forests. It feeds on invertebrates, mostly taken from the ground.

- **NEST** A partially domed cup nest of plant fibers and stems, situated on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Siberia. Winters in tropical Asia.


tail is often flicked up over the back
agile legs of a ground bird


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

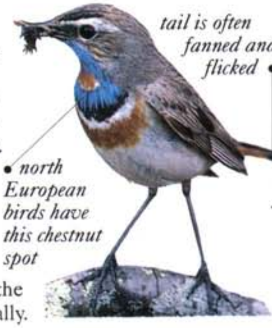
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

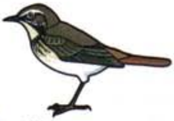
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Luscinia svecica*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

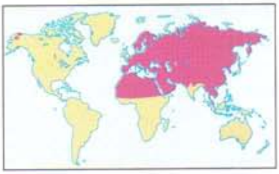
BLUETHROAT

This bird is a type of robin but is unusually secretive, skulking in the low vegetation. It breeds in forest, forest edges, and willow scrub. Its winter habitat is mainly scrub. The diet consists of insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest on the ground in thick vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia and Alaska. Winters in Africa and Asia.
- **REMARK** The color pattern on the throat and breast varies geographically.


tail is often fanned and flicked
north European birds have this chestnut spot


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

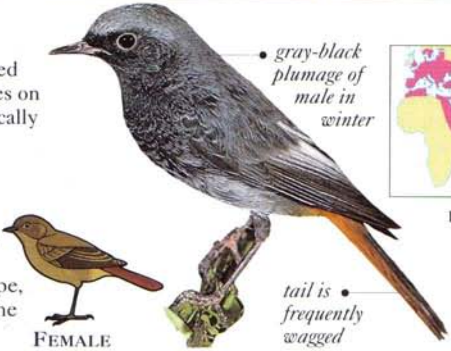
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

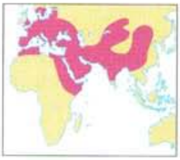
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Phoenicurus ochruros*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

BLACK REDSTART

A lover of rocky places, also adapted to urban life, this bird often perches on a rock or wall. Here it characteristically bobs up and down, with a shiver of its tail, before darting to the ground to pick up an insect.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant materials, lined with fine grass, hair, and feathers, situated in a crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Europe, N. and E. Africa, Middle East. Some southward migration in winter.


gray-black plumage of male in winter
tail is frequently wagged
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

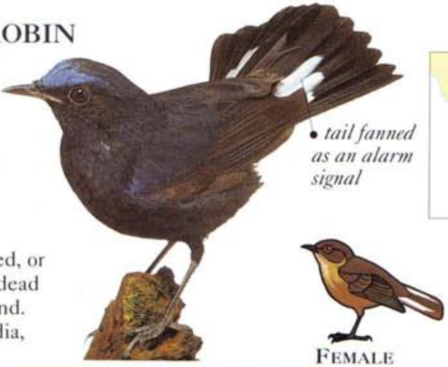
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

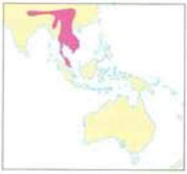
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Cinclidium leucurum*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

WHITE-TAILED ROBIN

A solitary and secretive robin, this bird is most often seen on the ground in thick cover near a forest stream. It feeds on insects, with berries in winter. Some pairs breed high in the Himalayas, wintering at lower altitudes.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped, domed, or semi-domed nest of rootlets, dead leaves, and moss, on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.E. India, S. China, parts of S.E. Asia.


tail fanned as an alarm signal
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

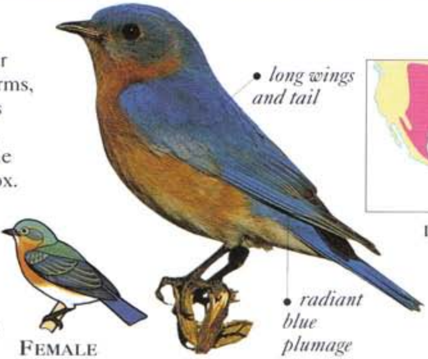
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

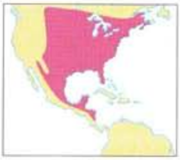
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Sialia sialis*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

This plump, upright bird is a summer visitor to woodlands, orchards, and farms, feeding on both insects and fruit. It is seen in large flocks during migration.

- **NEST** A simple cup nest with a fine lining, placed in a tree hole or nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in E. North and Central America. Winters as far south as Nicaragua.
- **REMARK** This species requires a nest hole, but competes poorly with starlings and sparrows. Nest box provision has helped its survival.




DISTRIBUTION

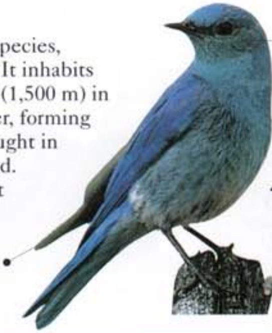
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

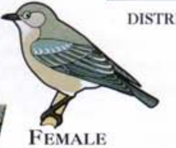
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Sialia currucoides*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

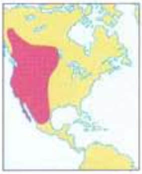
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Of the three North American bluebird species, this alone lacks chestnut in its plumage. It inhabits open meadows, generally above 5,000 ft (1,500 m) in summer, often visiting lowlands in winter, forming wandering flocks. It feeds on insects, caught in hovering flight or picked from the ground.

- **NEST** A loose cup nest, made of plant materials, in a tree hole or nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. North America. Migrates south in winter as far as Mexico.


blue throat, breast, and belly
wings are long and pointed


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

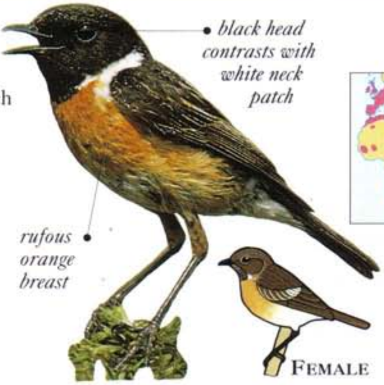
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ▲	Migration Migrant

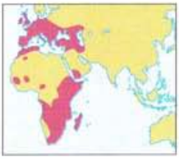
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Saxicola torquata*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

COMMON STONECHAT

This plump, dark-faced bird gets its name from its sharp, scolding call, which sounds like two stones being knocked together. It inhabits open heathland, where it perches on the tops of bushes before swooping to take insects on the ground or occasionally in the air.

- **NEST** A loose cup nest of plant materials, lined and tucked into vegetation on or near ground level.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Some southward migration in winter.


black head contrasts with white neck patch
rufous orange breast
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

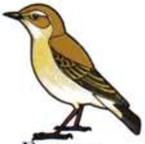
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

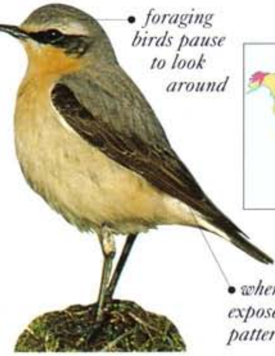
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Oenanthe oenanthe*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

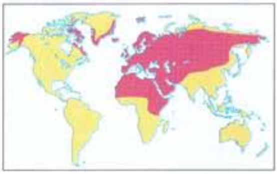
NORTHERN WHEATEAR

An inconspicuous bird of bare, open ground, this species forages on the ground, hunting invertebrates. It also catches insects in flight.

- **NEST** A lined cup nest made of grass and moss, in a cavity.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia and N. North America. Winters in Africa.


FEMALE


foraging birds pause to look around
when taking off, birds expose a black-and-white pattern at the rump


DISTRIBUTION

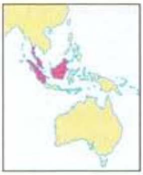
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

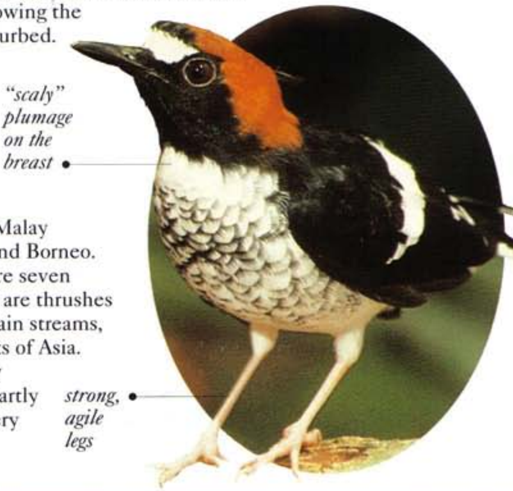
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Enicurus ruficapillus*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

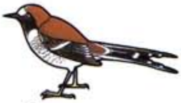
CHESTNUT-NAPED FORKTAIL

This species lives beside clear-water streams flowing through rain forest. Here it perches on rocks in mid-stream, running after insects on the rock or darting after them in the air. It is a wary bird, always following the stream-bed when disturbed.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest, lined with plant fibers, and plastered with a layer of mud to an overhanging surface.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.
- **REMARK** There are seven species of forktail. All are thrushes of fast-flowing mountain streams, living in different parts of Asia. They are all colorfully marked birds with smartly forked tails and are very sure footed on the rocks and in water.


DISTRIBUTION


"scaly" plumage on the breast
strong, agile legs
forked tail


FEMALE

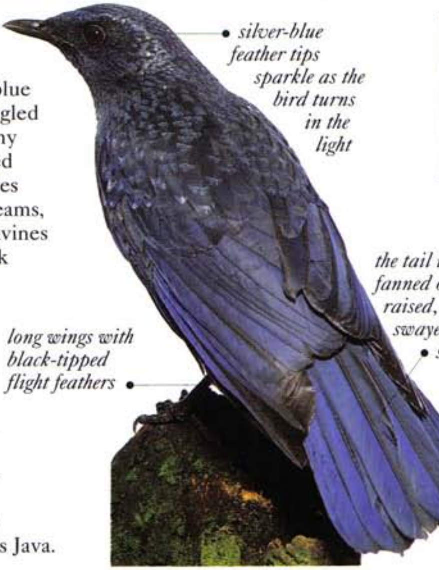
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 ≋ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

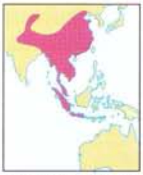
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Myiophonus caeruleus*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH

Pale feather tips give the violet blue plumage of this bird a vivid, spangled effect when seen in motion. Its shy behavior, however, and the shaded habitat, make it hard to see. It lives in forests alongside mountain streams, many of them running through ravines and gorges, overshadowed by rock walls. It is sure footed enough to wade through fast-running water and leap from boulder to boulder. Pairs stay on territory all year. The diet consists of invertebrates and fruit.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest made mainly of moss, often placed on a ledge in a small cave.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forests in Himalayan region, and mountain ranges of E. and S.E. Asia as far as Java.


silver-blue feather tips sparkle as the bird turns in the light
the tail is often fanned out, raised, and swayed from side to side
long wings with black-tipped flight feathers


DISTRIBUTION

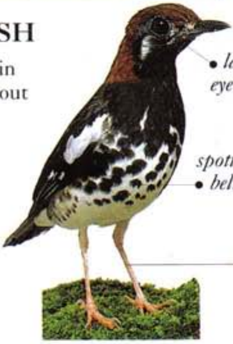
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲ 🌳 ≋	Migration Non-migrant

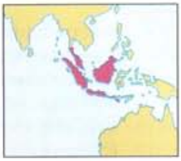
Family TURDIDAE | Species *Zoothera interpres* | Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

CHESTNUT-CAPPED THRUSH

This boldly colored but shy thrush lives in rain forests, where it is generally seen skulking about on the forest floor. An infrequent singer, it ascends to the mid-height of the trees to perform its song, which is wonderfully musical and varied. Its diet consists of fruits, insects, and other invertebrates, such as worms and snails.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest in the fork of a slender sapling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malaysia and parts of Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines.





DISTRIBUTION

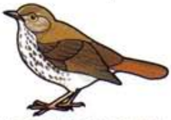
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

Family TURDIDAE | Species *Catharus guttatus* | Length 7½ in (19 cm)

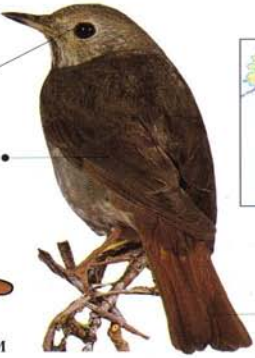
HERMIT THRUSH

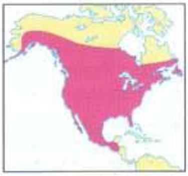
A summer resident in northern forests and on forested mountains, the Hermit Thrush can be identified by the rufous color of its tail. It is famed for the beauty of its slow, descending song. Berries and insects are its main food.

- **NEST** A compact but bulky cup made of plant materials and mud, usually on the ground under a conifer.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America. Winters as far south as Guatemala.



MOUNTAIN FORM





DISTRIBUTION

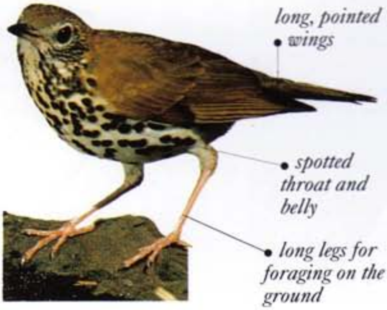
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 ▲ | Migration Migrant

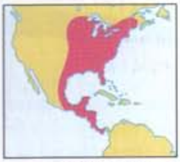
Family TURDIDAE | Species *Hylocichla mustelina* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

WOOD THRUSH

A delightfully musical thrush living in woodland habitats, this bird feeds mainly on the ground, taking invertebrates. It also sometimes feeds in the trees, taking insects and fruit.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant material, with a layer of mud, in a sapling or undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada, C. USA, and New England. Winters in S. USA and Central America.





DISTRIBUTION

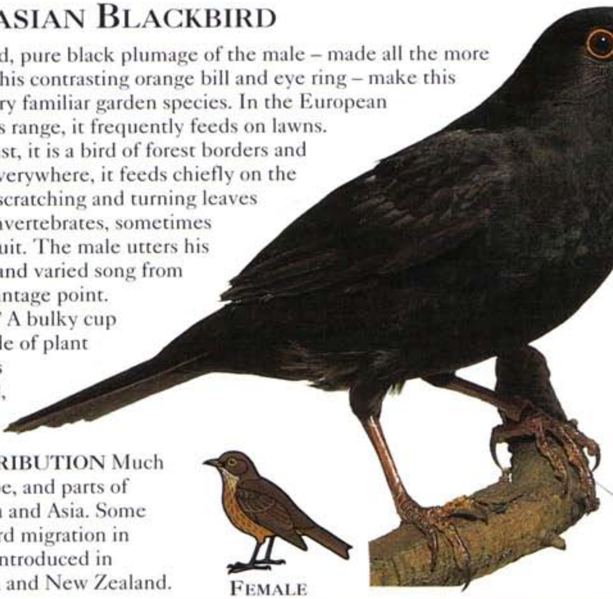
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Migrant

Family TURDIDAE	Species *Turdus merula*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

EURASIAN BLACKBIRD

The bold, pure black plumage of the male – made all the more vivid by his contrasting orange bill and eye ring – make this bird a very familiar garden species. In the European part of its range, it frequently feeds on lawns. In the east, it is a bird of forest borders and scrub. Everywhere, it feeds chiefly on the ground, scratching and turning leaves to find invertebrates, sometimes taking fruit. The male utters his musical and varied song from a high vantage point.

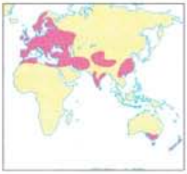
- **NEST** A bulky cup nest made of plant materials and mud, in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe, and parts of N. Africa and Asia. Some southward migration in winter. Introduced in Australia and New Zealand.



FEMALE

• bluntish bill, used for eating fruit as well as probing the ground

• athletic legs can run or make rapid, bounding hops



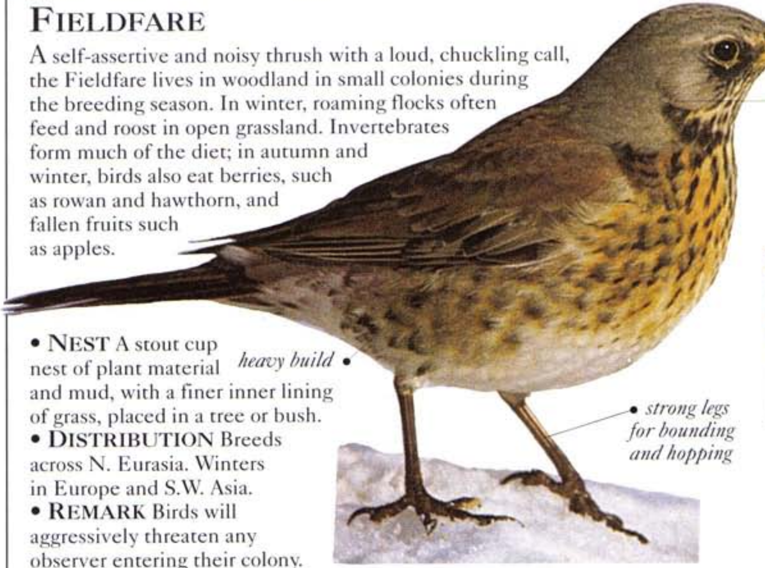
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family TURDIDAE	Species *Turdus pilaris*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

FIELDFARE

A self-assertive and noisy thrush with a loud, chuckling call, the Fieldfare lives in woodland in small colonies during the breeding season. In winter, roaming flocks often feed and roost in open grassland. Invertebrates form much of the diet; in autumn and winter, birds also eat berries, such as rowan and hawthorn, and fallen fruits such as apples.

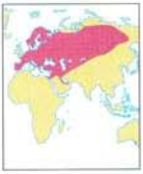


• gray head, nape, and cheeks

heavy build •

• strong legs for bounding and hopping

- **NEST** A stout cup nest of plant material and mud, with a finer inner lining of grass, placed in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds across N. Eurasia. Winters in Europe and S.W. Asia.
- **REMARK** Birds will aggressively threaten any observer entering their colony.



DISTRIBUTION

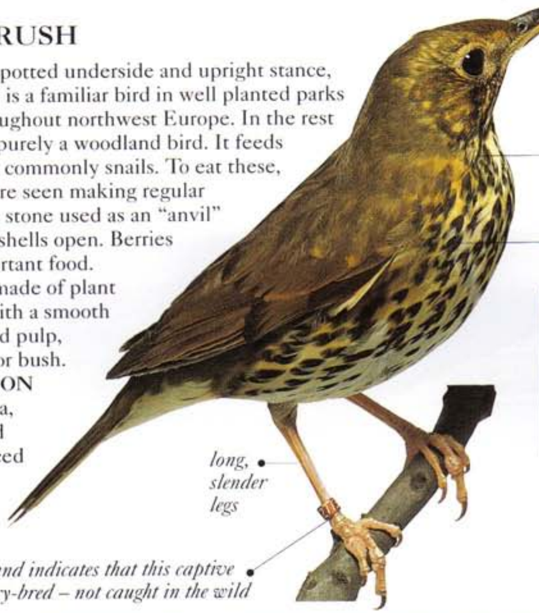
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

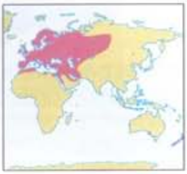
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Turdus philomelos*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

SONG THRUSH

With its boldly spotted underside and upright stance, the Song Thrush is a familiar bird in well planted parks and gardens throughout northwest Europe. In the rest of its range, it is purely a woodland bird. It feeds on invertebrates, commonly snails. To eat these, Song Thrushes are seen making regular visits to a chosen stone used as an "anvil" for breaking the shells open. Berries are another important food.

- **NEST** A cup made of plant material, lined with a smooth cup of mud, wood pulp, or clay, in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, N. Africa, Middle East, and C. Asia. Introduced in Australia and New Zealand.


slender bill
upright posture
spotted breast and belly
long, slender legs
numbered band indicates that this captive bird is aviary-bred – not caught in the wild



DISTRIBUTION

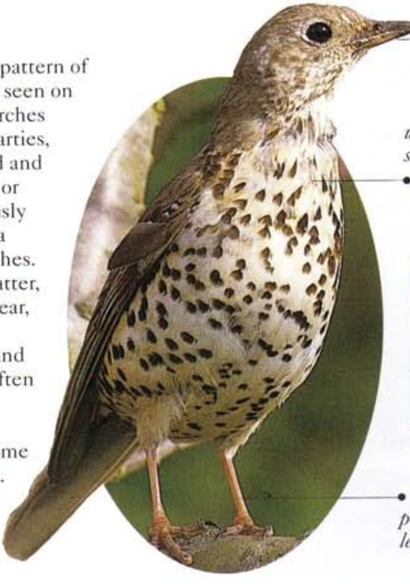
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

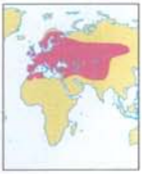
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Turdus viscivorus*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

MISTLE THRUSH

This large, pale thrush, with a bold pattern of spots on its underside, is most often seen on the ground, though it sometimes perches in trees. It feeds in pairs or family parties, taking invertebrates on open ground and berries from trees and bushes. Pairs or individual birds can be seen vigorously defending a source of food, such as a fruit tree in winter, from other thrushes. The flight call is a harsh, grating chatter, while the song, which is loud and clear, consists of short, musical phrases.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass and moss, usually in the fork of a tree, often higher than nests of other thrushes.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, N.W. Africa, Middle East, and C. Asia. Some populations in east of range migrate.
- **REMARK** Sometimes known as the "storm cock" because of its habit of singing from a treetop in rough weather, early in the year.


strong bill
upright, self-assertive stance
long, powerful legs



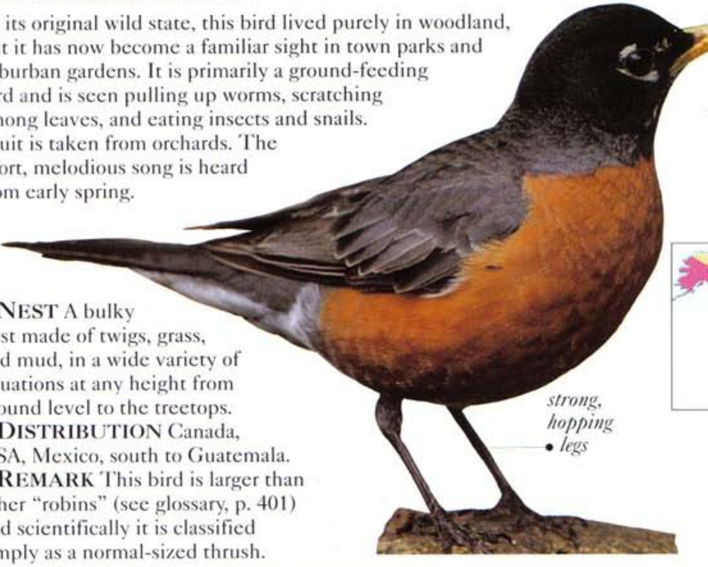
DISTRIBUTION

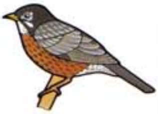
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

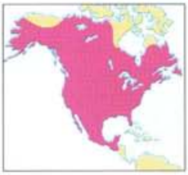
Family TURDIDAE	Species *Turdus migratorius*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

AMERICAN ROBIN

In its original wild state, this bird lived purely in woodland, but it has now become a familiar sight in town parks and suburban gardens. It is primarily a ground-feeding bird and is seen pulling up worms, scratching among leaves, and eating insects and snails. Fruit is taken from orchards. The short, melodious song is heard from early spring.




JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A bulky nest made of twigs, grass, and mud, in a wide variety of situations at any height from ground level to the treetops.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Canada, USA, Mexico, south to Guatemala.
- **REMARK** This bird is larger than other "robins" (see glossary, p. 401) and scientifically it is classified simply as a normal-sized thrush.

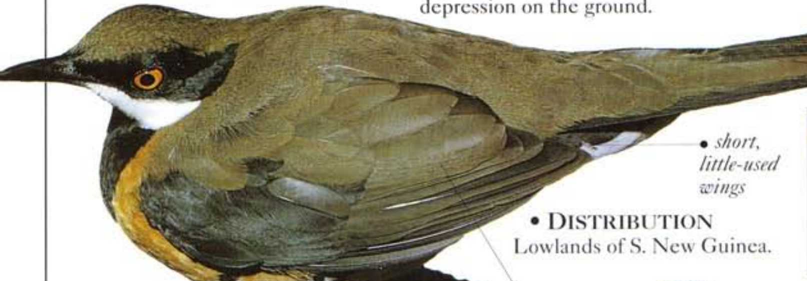
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌱	Migration Partial migrant

Family ORTHONYCHIDAE	Species *Cinclosoma ajax*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

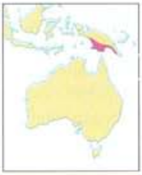
PAINTED QUAIL-THRUSH

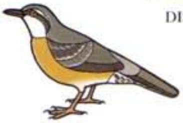
This thrushlike bird rarely leaves the ground and is normally difficult to see in lowland rain forest. Its presence may be more easily detected by its distinctive, thin, whistling call notes. Pairs or small parties walk unhurriedly in the deep shade, searching for insects.

- **NEST** Unknown, but closely related birds build open, cup-shaped nests in a depression on the ground.


short, little-used wings
dull brown upper plumage for camouflage against the ground

- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands of S. New Guinea.


DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

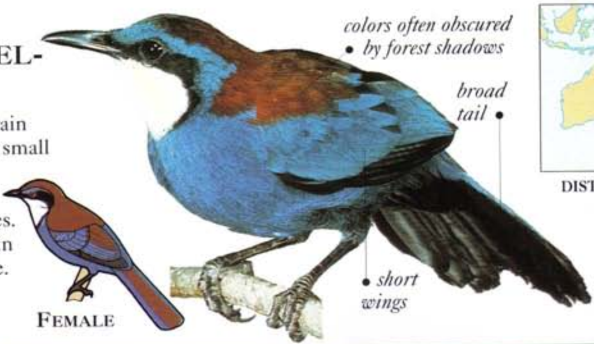
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family ORTHONYCHIDAE | Species *Ptilorrhoa castanonota* | Length 9 in (23 cm)

CHESTNUT-BACKED JEWEL-BABBLER

This species lives in rain forests, where pairs or small groups forage on the ground for insects and other invertebrates.

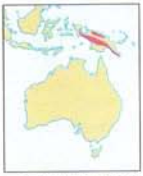
- **NEST** A deep cup in a hollow, against a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea.


FEMALE

colors often obscured by forest shadows

broad tail

short wings


DISTRIBUTION

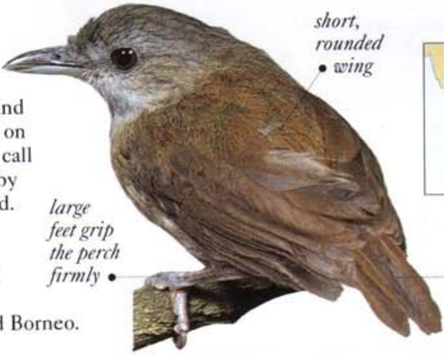
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

Family TIMALIIDAE | Species *Malacocincla malaccensis* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

SHORT-TAILED BABBLER

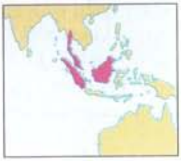
A sure footed babbler, this species keeps close to the ground in forest undergrowth. It feeds on beetles and other insects. The call is a metallic whistle, followed by a churring and chattering sound.

- **NEST** A cup nest on the ground, sheltered, and partly enclosed by a large, fallen leaf.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.


short, rounded wing

large feet grip the perch firmly

short tail


DISTRIBUTION

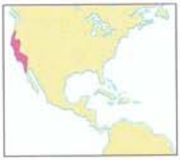
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 ▲ | Migration Non-migrant

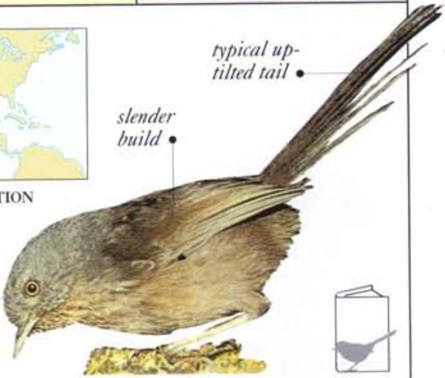
Family TIMALIIDAE | Species *Chamaea fasciata* | Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

WRENTIT

More often heard than seen, this perky little bird with a cocked tail lives in the chaparral, a semi-arid scrubland terrain. It is a hardy, insect-eating species. Wrentits occupy very small territories, where many remain throughout their lives. Males proclaim their presence with loud singing.

- **NEST** A compact, cup-shaped nest made of plant fibers, hairs, and spiderwebs, placed in a low bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. USA from Oregon to California, and part of Mexico (Baja California).


DISTRIBUTION


typical up-tilted tail

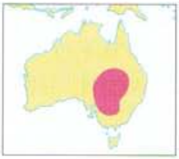
slender build

pale yellow iris

Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌿 | Migration Non-migrant

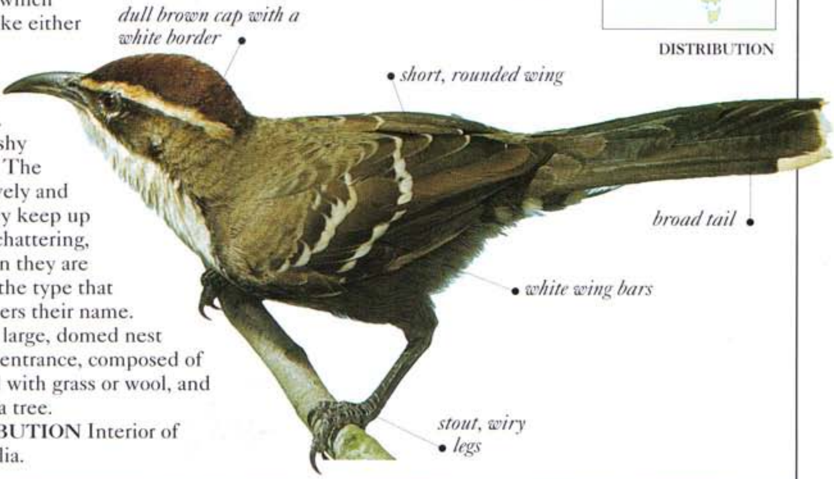
Family TIMALIIDAE	Species *Pomatostomus ruficeps*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

CHESTNUT-CROWNED BABBLER


DISTRIBUTION

This is a slim bird with a long tail and a slender, downcurved bill, living in open scrub, semidesert, and the scrubby woodland formed by mulga trees. It moves about in small flocks, feeding on insects, which the birds take either from low vegetation or from the ground. Flocks are shy of humans. The birds are lively and active. They keep up a constant chattering, louder when they are excited, of the type that gives babblers their name.

- **NEST** A large, domed nest with a side entrance, composed of twigs, lined with grass or wool, and situated in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of S.E. Australia.

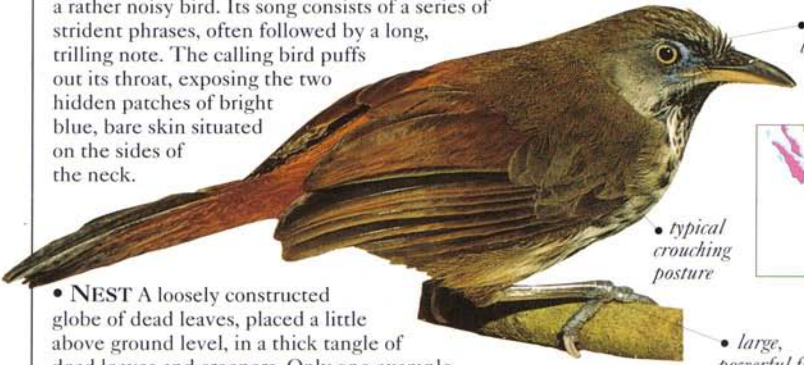


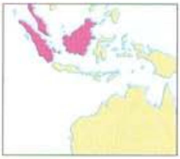
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌵 ʬ ʬ	Migration Non-migrant

Family TIMALIIDAE	Species *Stachyris maculata*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER

With its strong feet and powerful legs, this babbler is well adapted to a life of clambering about in the undergrowth of lowland rain forests. Small, active parties sometimes leave the cover of the undergrowth to forage in the middle height of the trees. The principal diet of this species is insects, but it also takes small fruits, when available. Although small, it is a rather noisy bird. Its song consists of a series of strident phrases, often followed by a long, trilling note. The calling bird puffs out its throat, exposing the two hidden patches of bright blue, bare skin situated on the sides of the neck.




DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A loosely constructed globe of dead leaves, placed a little above ground level, in a thick tangle of dead leaves and creepers. Only one example of this bird's nest has ever been reliably recorded.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.

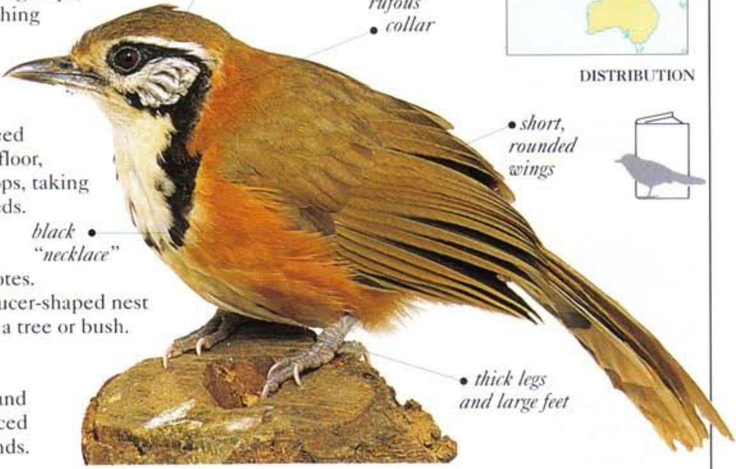
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

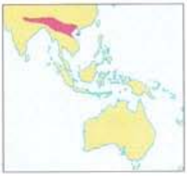
Family TIMALIIDAE | Species *Garrulax pectoralis* | Length 11 in (28 cm)

GREATER NECKLACED LAUGHING THRUSH

An assertive and inquisitive babbler, this bird goes about in groups, often with other laughing thrushes. Flocks are seen crossing an open space, gliding one after another. The birds feed mainly on the forest floor, moving with large hops, taking insects, fruit, and seeds. They frequently call to each other with piping and grating notes.

- **NEST** A broad, saucer-shaped nest of plant materials, in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Himalayas across into S. China and N. Vietnam. Introduced in the Hawaiian Islands.


black "mustache" streak
rufous collar
short, rounded wings
black "necklace"
thick legs and large feet


DISTRIBUTION

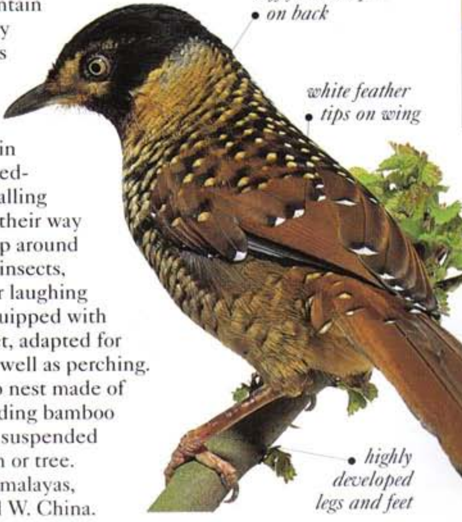
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 ▲ | Migration Non-migrant

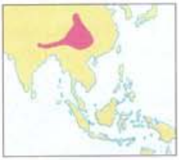
Family TIMALIIDAE | Species *Garrulax ocellatus* | Length 13 in (33 cm)

SPOTTED LAUGHING THRUSH

This large babbler of mountain woodlands and scrub is easy to see, less on account of its speckled plumage than because of its bold and inquisitive behavior. It moves around in parties and joins large, mixed-species bird flocks, often calling noisily. These flocks work their way through the bushes and hop around on the ground in search of insects, seeds, and fruit. Like other laughing thrushes, this species is equipped with powerful legs and large feet, adapted for hopping on the ground, as well as perching.

- **NEST** A large, loose cup nest made of twigs and dry leaves, including bamboo leaves, lined with rootlets, suspended within a twig fork in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Himalayas, E. Tibet, N. Burma, S. and W. China.


buff feather tips on back
white feather tips on wing
rufous tail with black tip
highly developed legs and feet


DISTRIBUTION

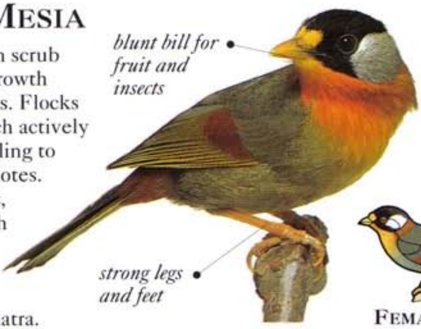
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 ▲ | Migration Non-migrant

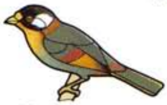
Family	Species	Length
TIMALIIDAE	*Leiothrix argentauris*	5 in (13 cm)

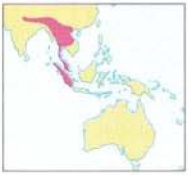
SILVER-EARED MESIA

This small babbler occurs in scrub and secondary scrub (new growth after clearance) in mountains. Flocks of about six to 30 birds search actively for insects in the foliage, calling to each other with chattering notes.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grass, moss, and lichens, lined with rootlets, in a low bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Himalayas and S. China as far south as Sumatra.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

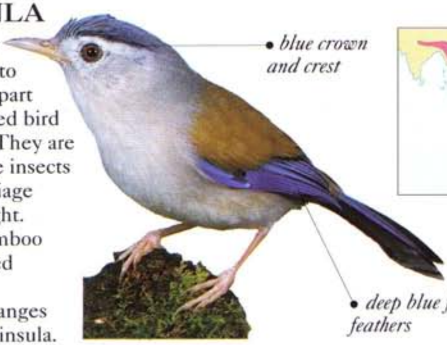
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ	🌿 ▲	Non-migrant

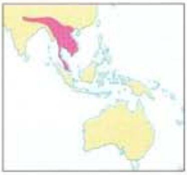
Family	Species	Length
TIMALIIDAE	*Minla cyanouroptera*	6 in (15 cm)

BLUE-WINGED MINLA

Like many babblers, this species often forms groups of about five to 15 birds, which sometimes form part of the large, roving flocks of mixed bird species occurring in hill forests. They are quick and lively feeders and take insects both by gleaning them in the foliage and by catching them in mid-flight.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of bamboo leaves and rootlets, often wrapped in moss, and hidden in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountain ranges from E. Himalayas to Malay Peninsula.




DISTRIBUTION

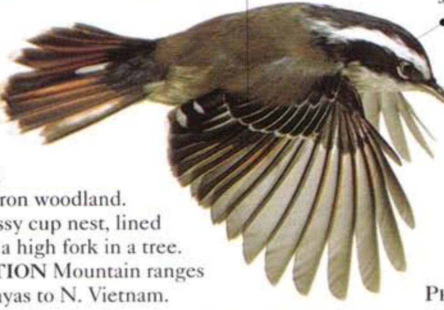
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike	🌳 ▲ 🌿	Non-migrant

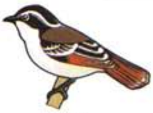
Family	Species	Length
TIMALIIDAE	*Minla ignotincta*	5½ in (14 cm)

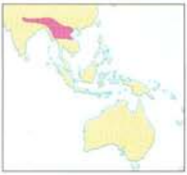
RED-TAILED MINLA

An insect hunter of the treetops in several types of hill forest, this bird is most common in oak and rhododendron woodland.

- **NEST** A mossy cup nest, lined and situated in a high fork in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountain ranges from E. Himalayas to N. Vietnam.




PERCHED BIRD


DISTRIBUTION

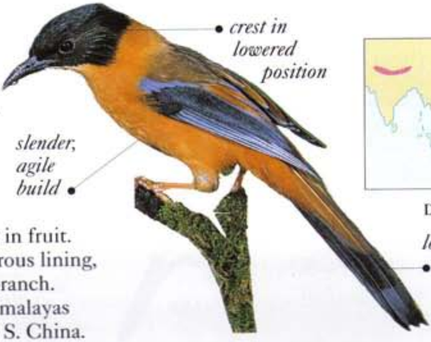
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike	🌳 🌲 ▲	Non-migrant

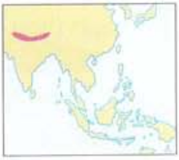
Family TIMALIIDAE	Species *Heterophasia capistrata*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

RUFOUS SIBIA

A slender, active babbler, this bird is found in the more open types of mountain woodland, including dwarf oak forest. When excited, it raises its shaggy, black cap feathers in a crest. It is highly acrobatic and hunts insects high in the upper foliage, appearing lower down when trees are in fruit.

- **NEST** A mossy cup nest with a fibrous lining, built into a twig fork at the end of a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Through the Himalayas from N. Pakistan through N. India to S. China.




DISTRIBUTION

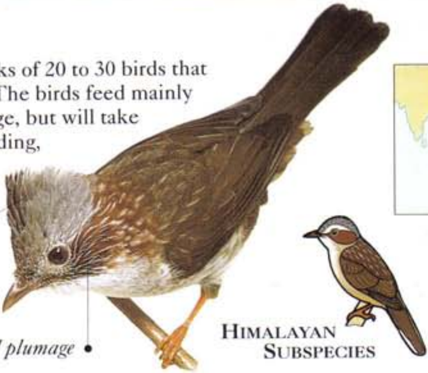
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family TIMALIIDAE	Species *Yuhina castaniceps*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

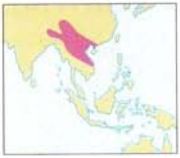
STRIATED YUHINA

This acrobatic babbler forms flocks of 20 to 30 birds that hunt among the larger branches. The birds feed mainly on insects, gleaned from the foliage, but will take berries when available. While feeding, the birds utter constant, low pitched contact calls.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of fine grass, moss, roots, and leaves, in a hollow in a bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Himalayas and S. China to N. Vietnam.



HIMALAYAN SUBSPECIES


DISTRIBUTION

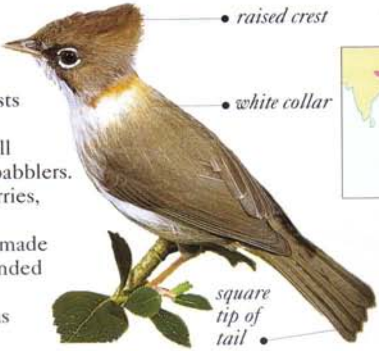
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

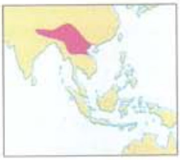
Family TIMALIIDAE	Species *Yuhina flavicollis*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

WHISKERED YUHINA

The combination of a jaunty, pointed crest and a "mustache" identifies this babbler, which breeds in mountain forests and winters in the trees in foothills and lowlands. It nearly always occurs in small groups, that often join mixed flocks of babblers. The diet consists of insects, spiders, berries, and nectar taken from flowering trees.

- **NEST** Either domed or cup-shaped, made of moss and lined with roots, and suspended from the fork of a twig in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From E. Himalayas and S. China to N. Vietnam.




DISTRIBUTION

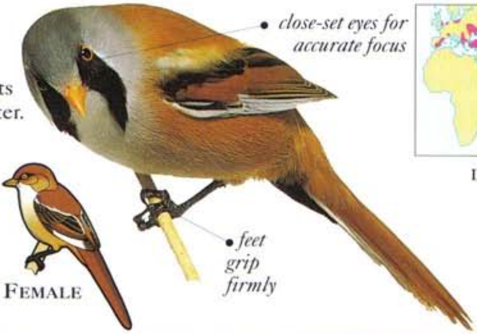
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲ 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Non-migrant

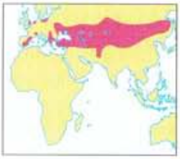
Family PANURIDAE	Species *Panurus biarmicus*	Length 6½ in (16.5 cm)

BEARDED PARROTBILL

Living in reedbeds, this bird eats insects in summer, seeds in winter. Flocks are seen searching through the reeds for food.

- **NEST** A loosely made cup nest, lined with reed plumes, in reeds, near the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Patchily distributed in Europe, and across Asia to the Pacific.


close-set eyes for accurate focus
feet grip firmly
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

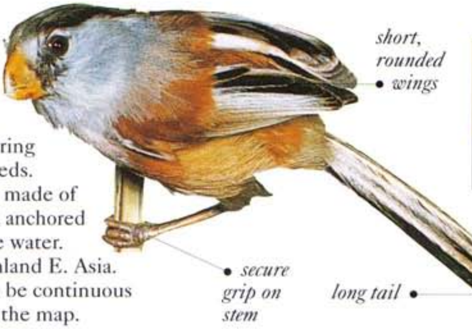
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋	Migration Partial migrant

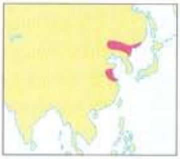
Family PANURIDAE	Species *Paradoxornis heudei*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

REED PARROTBILL

A stout bill enables this rare, marsh-dwelling bird to split open reed stems and capture insects sheltering inside. It also eats reed seeds.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest made of reed and sedge leaves, and anchored between stems, just above water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mainland E. Asia. Distribution may prove to be continuous between the two areas on the map.




DISTRIBUTION

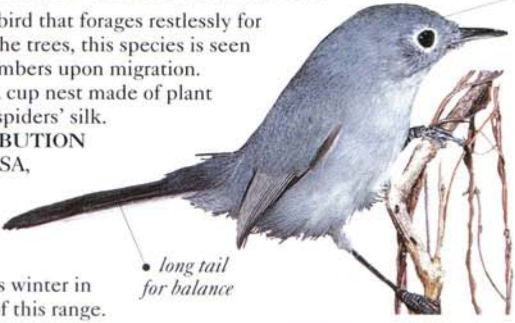
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Non-migrant

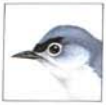
Family POLIOPTILIDAE	Species *Polioptila caerulea*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

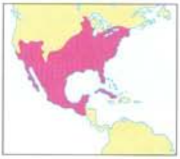
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

A slender bird that forages restlessly for insects in the trees, this species is seen in large numbers upon migration.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of plant down and spiders' silk.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of USA, S. Canada, Mexico, Cuba. Northern populations winter in the south of this range.



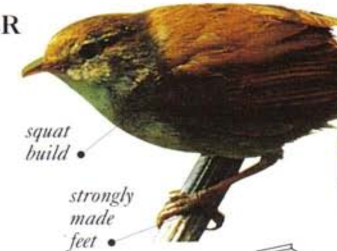

MALE


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 ✶	Migration Migrant

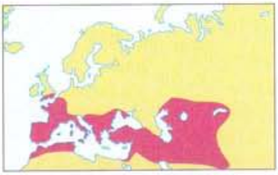
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Cettia cetti*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

CETTI'S WARBLER



A small, squat warbler, this species usually keeps out of sight in reedbeds and waterside thickets, where it feeds on insects. The song is brief and explosive.

- **NEST** A bulky, deep cup nest, made of grass, situated low in waterside vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Europe, N. Africa, Middle East, and C. Asia. Middle Eastern and C. Asian populations migrate to N.W. India.

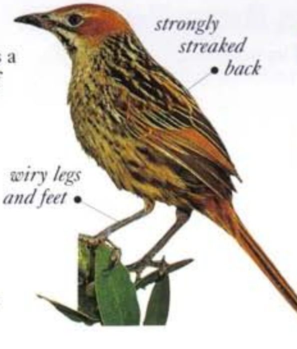


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

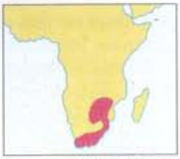
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Sphenoeacus afer*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

CAPE GRASS-WARBLER



A large warbler, the Cape Grass-Warbler has a streaked pattern of chestnut, black, and buff for camouflage in its scrubland and savanna habitat. Usually solitary or in pairs, it is shy and secretive, creeping into tangled vegetation when disturbed. It feeds in cover, taking insects and spiders, but often mounts a prominent perch in the early morning, to sun itself or to sing.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of coarse grass, lined with fine grass, hidden in a grassy tuft.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa.

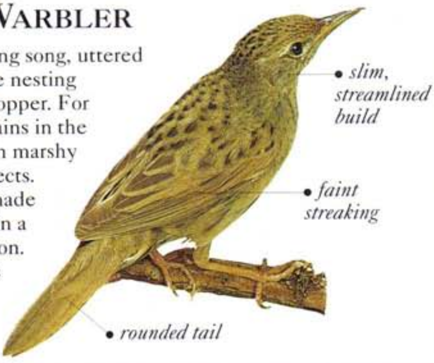


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

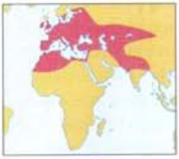
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Locustella naevia*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER



The male's prolonged, trilling song, uttered from the top of a bush in the nesting season, sounds like a grasshopper. For the most part, this bird remains in the undergrowth, on heaths or in marshy places, feeding on small insects.

- **NEST** A lined cup nest made of grass and leaves, hidden in a depression in thick vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from Europe to W. China. Winters as far south as N. Africa and N. India.



DISTRIBUTION

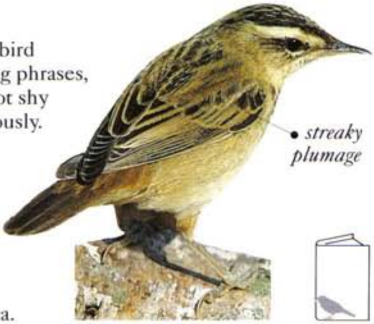
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

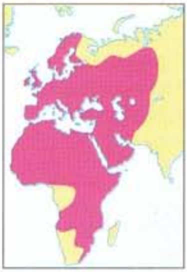
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

SEDGE WARBLER

One of the noisier warblers, this bird produces a lively mixture of lilting phrases, mimicry, and harsh noises. It is not shy and, when disturbed, sings vigorously. It is common at the edge of reedbeds, feeding on insects.

- **NEST** A relatively deep and bulky nest, bound to stems, low in waterside vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Europe and C. Asia. Winters in tropical southern Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

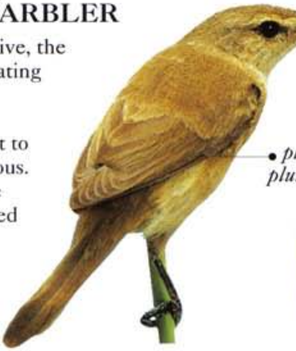
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Migrant

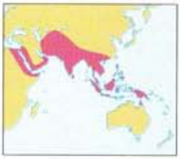
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Acrocephalus stentoreus*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

CLAMOROUS REED-WARBLER

A bulkier version of its northern relative, the Common Reed-Warbler, this insect-eating bird is found in papyrus swamps and mangroves, as well as in reedbeds, across a huge range from Africa almost to Australia. Its song is loud and melodious.

- **NEST** A large, neat cup nest, made of reed leaves or similar materials, lined and slung between stems slightly above the surface of the water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From N.E. Africa through Asia to New Guinea. Some populations migrate.




DISTRIBUTION

NEST

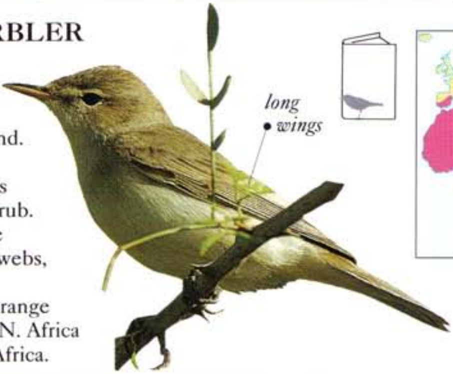
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋	Migration Partial migrant

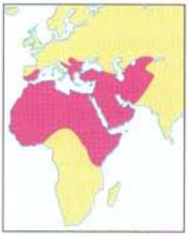
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Hippolais pallida*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER

Confident in bearing, this warbler is often seen feeding in exposed situations, such as on a thornbush in open grassland. While gleaning insects, it may utter "chuck" notes; the song is musical. It usually breeds in scrub.

- **NEST** A neat cup nest made of grass, twigs, hair, and spiderwebs, placed in a low bush or shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeding range is from S. Portugal, Spain, and N. Africa to C. Asia. Winters in tropical Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

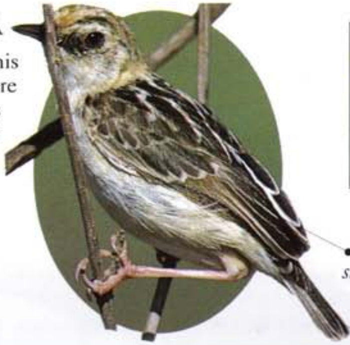
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ✶ ⋯	Migration Migrant

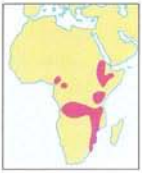
Family **Sylviidae**	Species *Cisticola brunnescens*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

PALE-CROWNED CISTICOLA

Noticeably streaked and short in the tail, this warbler lives in damp areas of grassland, where it feeds on ants and other small insects. It is normally inconspicuous but, in the breeding season, males perform a diving display flight, during which they also sing loudly.

- **NEST** An oval nest made of grass that is still growing, with a side entrance, bound with spiderwebs, and situated a short distance above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas in Africa south of the Sahara.




DISTRIBUTION

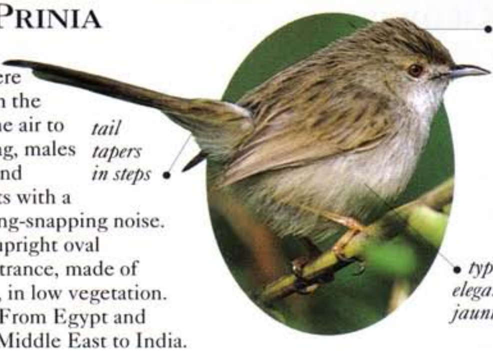
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

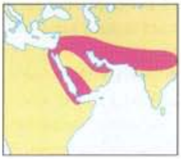
Family **Sylviidae**	Species *Prinia gracilis*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

GRACEFUL PRINIA

This is a warbler of scrub habitats, where pairs or groups hop on the ground or leap into the air to catch insects. In spring, males sing from bush tops and perform display flights with a distinctly audible, wing-snapping noise.

- **NEST** A dome or upright oval pouch, with a side entrance, made of grass and spiderwebs, in low vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Egypt and Somalia through the Middle East to India.




DISTRIBUTION

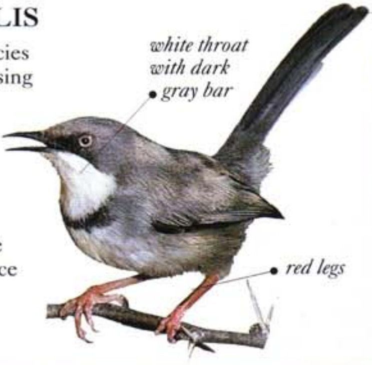
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

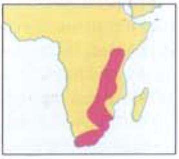
Family **Sylviidae**	Species *Apalis thoracica*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

BAR-THROATED APALIS

A boldly patterned warbler, this species inhabits forests, often on hills. Pairs sing "duetting" songs; at other times, birds join mixed-species flocks. They forage at all heights in the forest, taking caterpillars and mature insects. In behavior, this is a bold and inquisitive species.

- **NEST** A long, oval structure made of plant materials, with a side entrance near the top, situated in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Kenya south as far as South Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

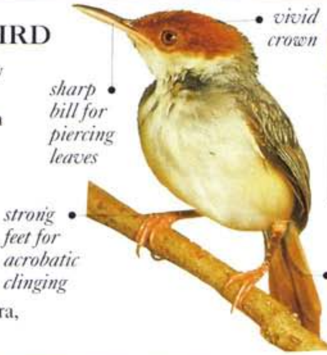
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

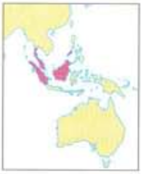
Family Sylviidae	Species *Orthotomus sericeus*	Length 5¼ in (13.5 cm)

RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD

This scrub-dwelling warbler characteristically carries its tail in a cocked position while searching the undergrowth for insects. It often runs rapidly along a branch to seize its prey. The species has a loud, cheerful song.

- **NEST** The birds "sew" large leaves together where they are still attached to the plant, using threads of plant down and spiderwebs. They then build a lined cup nest between the leaves.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, and small islands in W. Philippines.


vivid crown
sharp bill for piercing leaves
strong feet for acrobatic clinging
tail is often cocked


DISTRIBUTION

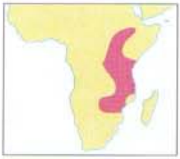
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

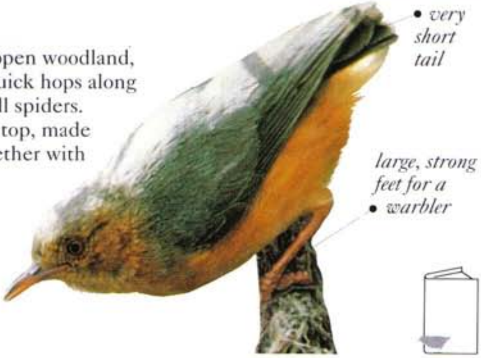
Family Sylviidae	Species *Sylvietta whytii*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

RED-FACED CROMBEC

This colorful warbler lives in forest edges, open woodland, and acacia savanna. It moves in a series of quick hops along small branches, foraging for insects and small spiders.

- **NEST** A purse-shaped nest with an open top, made of grass, bark, and plant tendrils, bound together with spiderwebs, lined with plant down, hanging from a twig in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Africa from S. Sudan to N. Mozambique.


DISTRIBUTION


very short tail
large, strong feet for a warbler

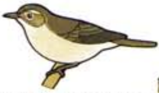
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

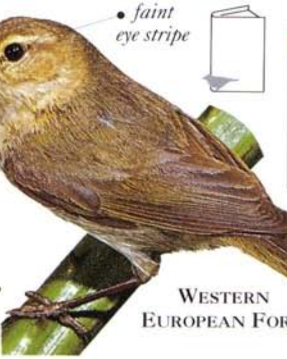
Family Sylviidae	Species *Phylloscopus collybita*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

EURASIAN CHIFFCHAFF

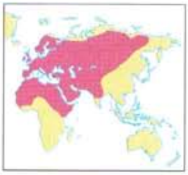
A small, dull-green warbler of open forest and scrub, this species can be identified by its monotonous "chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff" song. It gleans actively in low trees and bushes for insects.

- **NEST** An almost spherical nest of leaves, moss, and stems, lined with feathers, on or near the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Europe, C. Asia, Siberia, and N. Africa. Winters in Africa south of the Equator, and India.


SIBERIAN FORM



WESTERN EUROPEAN FORM


DISTRIBUTION

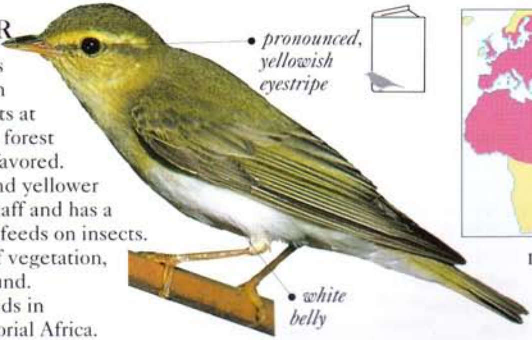
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

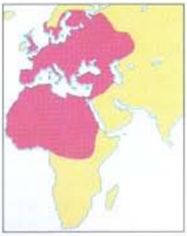
Family SYLVIIDAE | Species *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

WOOD WARBLER

A tree-crown warbler, this species feeds and roosts in the forest canopy, but nests at ground level. Areas of tall forest lacking undergrowth are favored. This species is brighter and yellower than the Eurasian Chiffchaff and has a shivering, trilling song. It feeds on insects.

- **NEST** A domed nest of vegetation, placed on or near the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Europe. Winters in equatorial Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

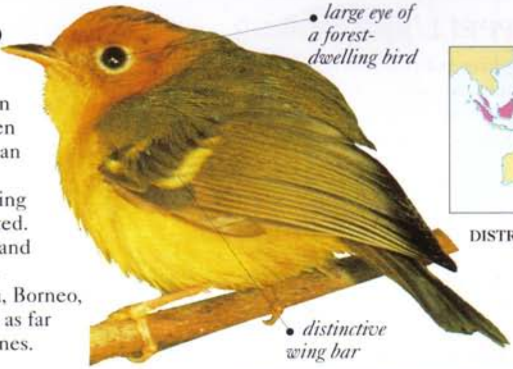
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Migrant

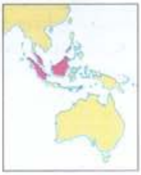
Family SYLVIIDAE | Species *Seicercus montis* | Length 4½ in (11.5 cm)

YELLOW-BREASTED WARBLER

This warbler occurs on mountain scrub and forest clearings. It often joins mixed feeding flocks and can be seen snatching insects from the undersides of leaves. Its trilling song is high pitched and disjointed.

- **NEST** A domed nest of grass and mosses, placed in a rock crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra, islands of E. Indonesia as far as New Guinea, and W. Philippines.




DISTRIBUTION

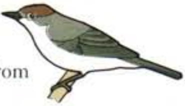
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 ▲ | Migration Non-migrant

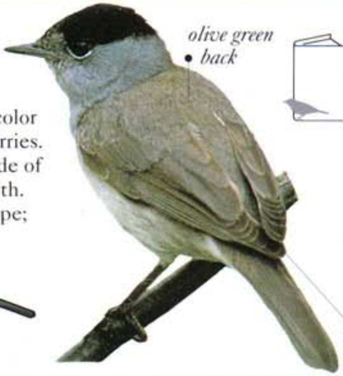
Family SYLVIIDAE | Species *Sylvia atricapilla* | Length 5½ in (14 cm)

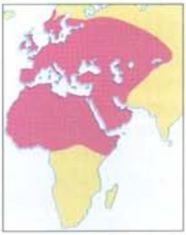
BLACKCAP

The exuberant song of this bird, often heard from high in the trees, contrasts with its extremely basic color scheme. It feeds on insects and berries.

- **NEST** A hair-lined cup nest made of grass, placed low in the undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Most of Europe; also N. Africa, Middle East, and parts of C. Asia. Winters from S.W. Europe to equatorial Africa.


FEMALE




DISTRIBUTION

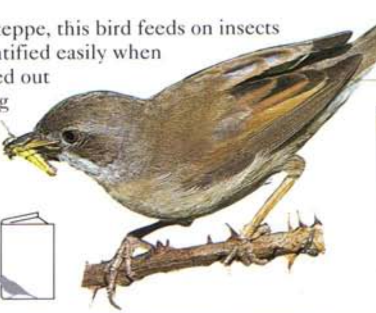
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 🌳 ▲ | Migration Migrant

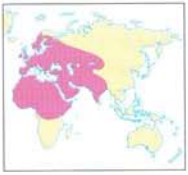
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Sylvia communis*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

WHITETHROAT

A warbler of shrubby growth and steppe, this bird feeds on insects and berries. It can be seen and identified easily when singing – with its white throat puffed out conspicuously – or when performing its dancing songflight.

- **NEST** A lined cup nest, made of grass and hidden in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Europe and also N. Africa, Middle East, and parts of C. Asia. Winters in India and tropical Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

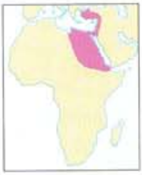
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Migrant

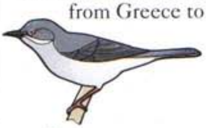
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Sylvia rueppelli*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

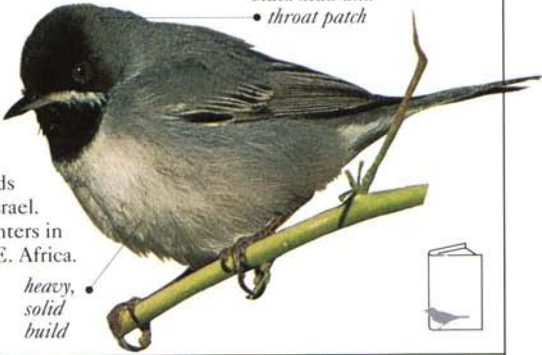
RUEPPELL'S WARBLER

Hunting insects in thick scrub, often on rocky slopes, this bird is hard to see. It is more often detected by its short, musical song, broken with buzzing, rattling notes.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grass and stalks, in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from Greece to S. Israel. Winters in N.E. Africa.


DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE



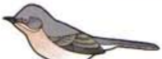
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Sylvia cantillans*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

SUBALPINE WARBLER

This bird is secretive and difficult to observe, hiding in thorny scrub and thick undergrowth in open woodland. Nonetheless, it is a common species throughout the Mediterranean. Its diet consists of insects and their larvae, and berries.

- **NEST** A cup nest of stems and grass, lined with grass or hairs, placed low in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION**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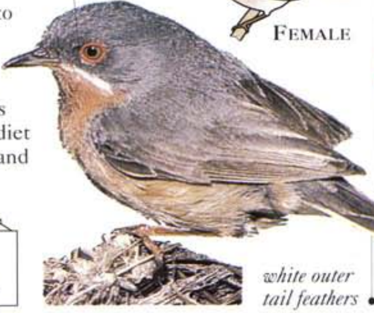
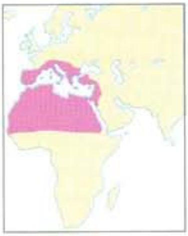



DISTRIBUTION

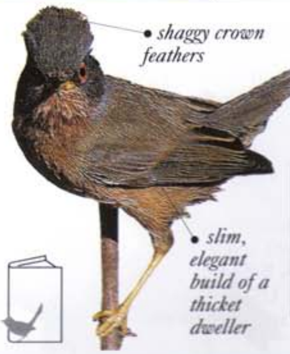
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

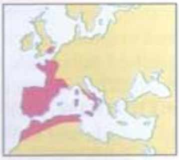
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Sylvia undata*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

DARTFORD WARBLER

A resident (non-migrant) bird in much of its range, the colorful Dartford Warbler survives winter frosts by sheltering low in dense gorse thickets. It sings very musically during the course of its spring display flight. Its diet consists of insects and spiders.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass, lined with finer materials, placed low down in a thick, thorny bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of W. and S. Europe; N.W. Africa. Some migration within this range.




DISTRIBUTION

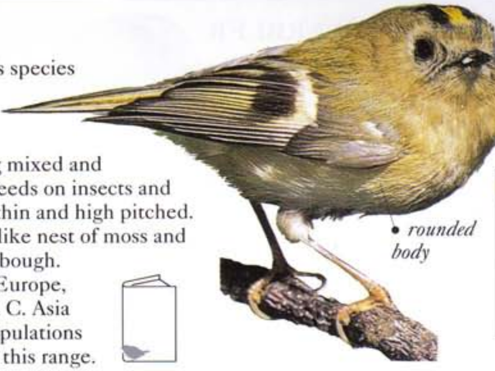
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

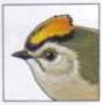
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Regulus regulus*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

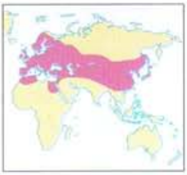
GOLDCREST

Usually secretive, this species becomes more tame and inquisitive under winter conditions. Inhabiting mixed and coniferous forests, it feeds on insects and spiders. The voice is thin and high pitched.

- **NEST** A hammocklike nest of moss and grass, under a conifer bough.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, parts of N. Africa, and C. Asia to Japan. Northern populations winter in the south of this range.






DISTRIBUTION

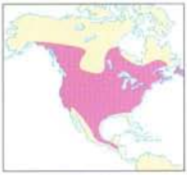
Plumage	Habitat Sexes differ	Migration Partial migrant

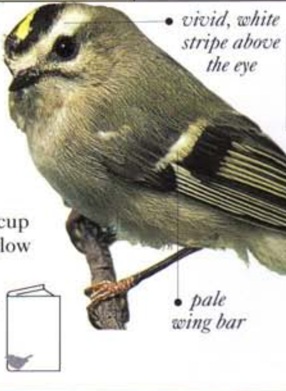
Family SYLVIIDAE	Species *Regulus satrapa*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

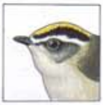
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

This tiny bird is difficult to observe, as it tends to stay high in coniferous trees, often the only clue being its almost inaudible, high pitched song. In the fall, northern populations migrate south, and the birds are more easily seen, hunting insects in lower cover.

- **NEST** A deep, feather-lined cup nest of moss and grass, slung below a branch, usually in a conifer.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Canada, much of USA, parts of Mexico and Guatemala. Some migration within this range.


DISTRIBUTION





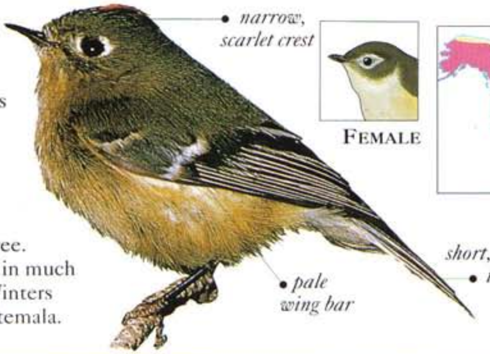
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family Sylviidae	Species *Regulus calendula*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

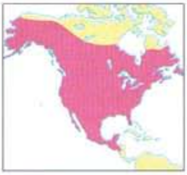
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Constantly on the move, this bird searches the trees for insects. Birds are nervously active, flicking their wings and uttering their high pitched calls while hunting.

- **Nest** A mossy ball in a tree.
- **Distribution** Breeds in much of Canada and in W. USA. Winters in S. USA, Mexico, and Guatemala.



Female


DISTRIBUTION

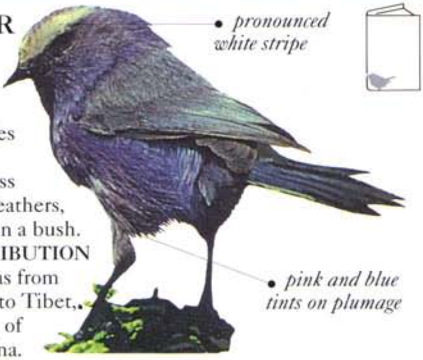
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ♣♣	Migration Migrant

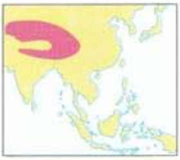
Family Sylviidae	Species *Leptopoecile sophiae*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

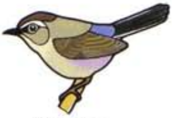
White-browed Tit-Warbler

A tiny bird with unusual tints of blue and pink in its plumage, this species occurs in dwarf juniper scrub in mountains and river valley thickets. It is seen in pairs in summer and in small, restless parties in winter, gleaning insects in the undergrowth.

- **Nest** A domed nest of moss and animal hairs, lined with feathers, situated in a bush.
- **Distribution** Himalayas from N. India to Tibet, and parts of S.W. China.




DISTRIBUTION


Female

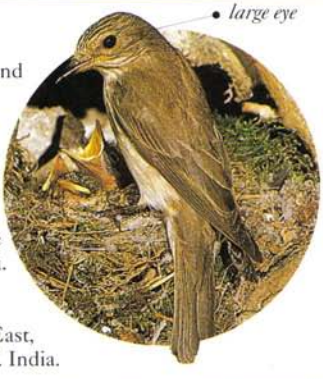
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat ✢ ▲ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

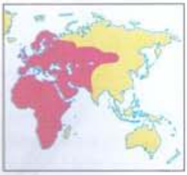
Family Muscicapidae	Species *Muscicapa striata*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

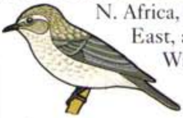
Spotted Flycatcher

This small, brown bird is found as a spring migrant in woodland fringes. Its typical behavior is to watch from a tree, then sally out to catch an insect in the air before returning to its perch.

- **Nest** A slight cup made of moss, fibers, and spiderwebs, behind the stem of a creeper or in a crevice, or on a wall or tree trunk.
- **Distribution** Breeds in Europe, N. Africa, the Middle East, and C. Asia. Winters in Africa, Middle East, and N.W. India.




DISTRIBUTION


Juvenile

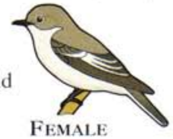
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ♣	Migration Migrant

Family MUSCICAPIDAE	Species *Ficedula hypoleuca*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

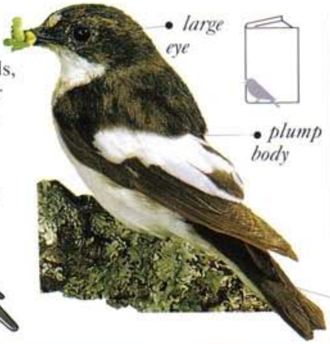
PIED FLYCATCHER

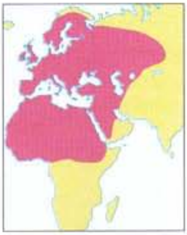
A spring migrant to deciduous woodlands, orchards, or gardens, the Pied Flycatcher is less secretive than the Spotted. When perching, it has a distinctive habit of briefly lifting up one of its wings.

- **NEST** A loose cup nest of moss, bark, and rootlets, lined with feathers, in a tree hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, N.W. Africa, and S.W. Siberia. Winters in tropical Africa,



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

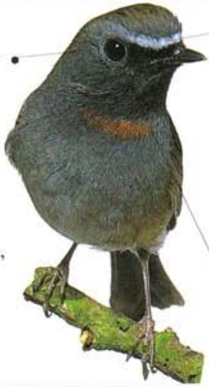
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

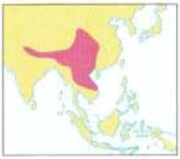
Family MUSCICAPIDAE	Species *Ficedula strophiata*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

RUFOUS-GORGETED FLYCATCHER

This bluish-gray flycatcher is found in mixed forests, often in mountains. It is usually seen alone or in pairs. Like other flycatchers, it feeds by catching insects in flight. In winter, mountain populations migrate to lower altitudes, where they occupy more open habitats.

- **NEST** A loose cup nest made of rootlets and moss, with a finer lining, placed in a bank or tree hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountains from E. Himalayas to S. Vietnam. Migrant populations winter in the south of this range.





DISTRIBUTION

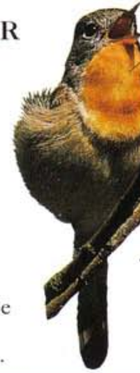
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

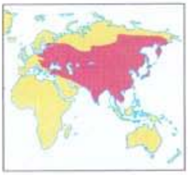
Family MUSCICAPIDAE	Species *Ficedula parva*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER

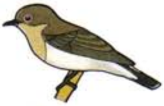
Very small for a flycatcher, this bird breeds in deciduous and mixed woodland, in both lowland and mountains, keeping to the thicker foliage. It feeds on insects caught in midair. In winter it favors more open habitats, such as forest edges and scrub. Females lack the orange throat seen in males of the species.

- **NEST** A neat cup nest made of root fibers, grass stems, and moss, lined with hair, and placed in a cavity, such as a rotten tree stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in parts of C. Europe and from E. Europe through Asia to Japan. Winters in India, S. China, and parts of S.E. Asia.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

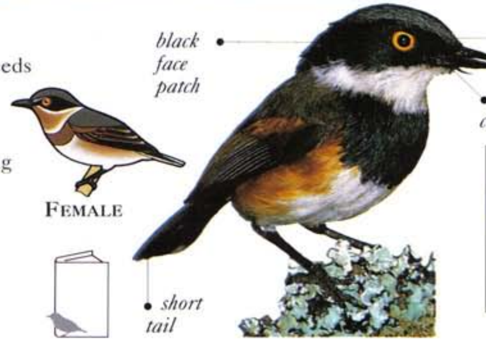
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

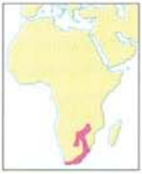
Family PLATYSTEIRIDAE	Species *Batis capensis*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

CAPE BATIS

This forest-dwelling bird feeds on insects and spiders. The breast is black in males and chestnut in females. Males display with a noisy snapping of wings above the trees.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant fibers, bound with spiderwebs, in a horizontal branch or an upright fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.




DISTRIBUTION

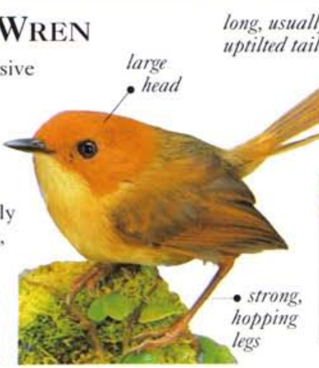
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

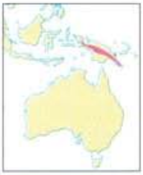
Family MALURIDAE	Species *Clytomyias insignis*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

ORANGE-CROWNED FAIRY-WREN

A bird of wet, mountain rain forests, this reclusive fairy-wren keeps to the lower and thicker undergrowth, where it is infrequently seen, feeding on insects and spiders. Looking different from other fairy-wrens with its light-colored plumage, it is most often encountered in small flocks of 4–12 birds, which are probably all closely related to each other. While feeding, they continually utter high pitched calls to keep in contact with other members of their flock.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea.




DISTRIBUTION

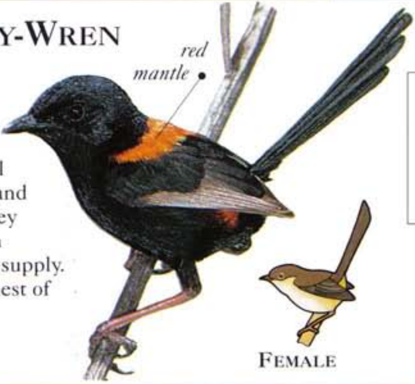
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

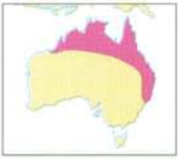
Family MALURIDAE	Species *Malurus melanocephalus*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

RED-BACKED FAIRY-WREN

The smallest of the fairy-wrens, this species lives in tropical and subtropical open grassland areas that are dotted with trees. The birds, often encountered in small flocks, forage for seeds, insects, and invertebrates on the ground. They move from area to area or remain resident, depending on the food supply.

- **NEST** A neat, dome-shaped nest of grass, in a grass tussock or shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. and E. Australia.




DISTRIBUTION

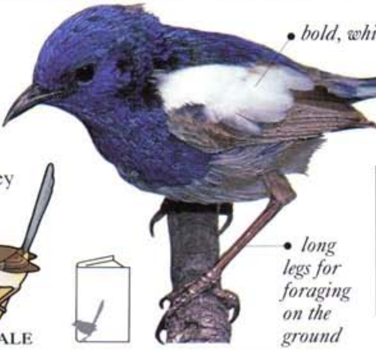
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

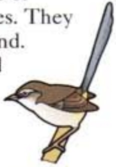
Family	Species	Length
MALURIDAE	*Malurus leucopterus*	4¾ in (12 cm)

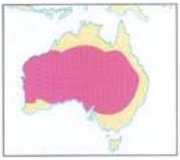
WHITE-WINGED FAIRY-WREN

This bird of arid country is seen in parties comprising a colorful male and his partner, with a retinue of females and subordinate males. They forage for insects on the ground.

- **NEST** A dome of grass and bark, with a side entrance, on the ground under cover.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. and interior Australia.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

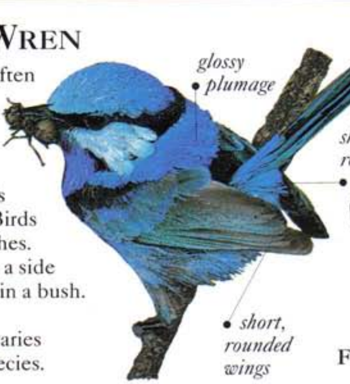
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ		Non-migrant

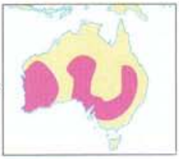
Family	Species	Length
MALURIDAE	*Malurus splendens*	5½ in (14 cm)

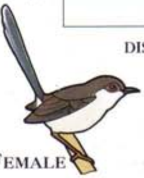
SPLENDID FAIRY-WREN

A bird of scrub and grassland, often near forest edges, this species forms small parties that hop on the ground and search in the undergrowth for seeds and insects. Usually only one male is in blue plumage in each party. Birds make short flights between bushes.

- **NEST** An oval structure with a side entrance, made of grass, placed in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia.
- **REMARK** Plumage pattern varies in the three geographical subspecies.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

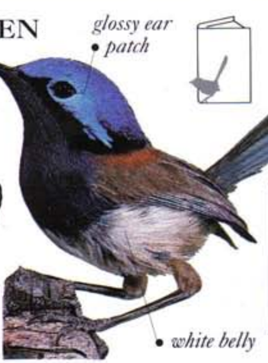
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ		Non-migrant

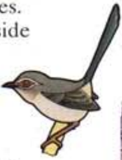
Family	Species	Length
MALURIDAE	*Malurus pulcherrimus*	5½in (14 cm)

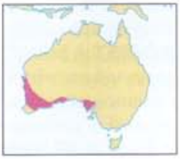
BLUE-BREASTED FAIRY-WREN

This spectacular bird occurs in woodland and scrub. It is often seen in small parties consisting of a dominant pair with "helpers"; all feed, roost, and nest together. The birds forage in groups on the ground, looking for insects and other small invertebrates.

- **NEST** An oval structure with a side entrance, made of grass and bound together with spiderwebs, lined with plant down or feathers, and placed in a low bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Western Australia and South Australia.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

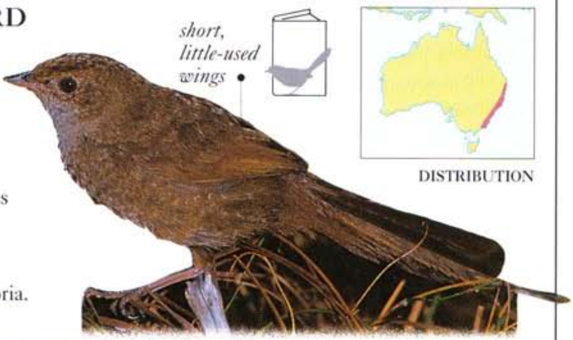
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ		Non-migrant

Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Dasyornis brachypterus*	Length 8¾ in (22 cm)

EASTERN BRISTLEBIRD

Living in scrub and being very shy, this drab, brown bird is hard to see. It forages mainly on the ground for seeds and insects, often carrying its long tail cocked and slightly fanned.

- **NEST** A round nest with a side entrance, constructed of coarse grasses with a finer grass chamber, placed on the ground or in a grass clump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Australian coastal strip from Brisbane to E. Victoria.
- **REMARK** Endangered species.



DISTRIBUTION

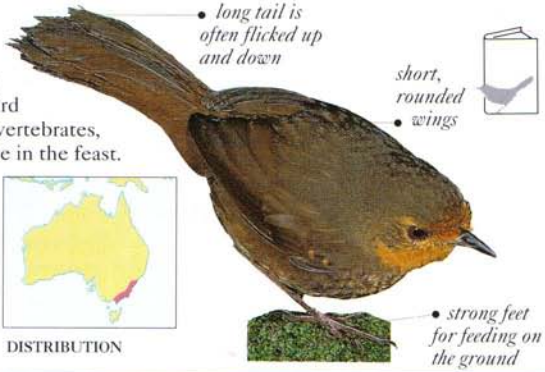
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Pycnoptilus floccosus*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

PILOTBIRD

This bird gets its name from its association with the Superb Lyrebird (*see p. 266*). The larger Superb Lyrebird scratches up leaf litter in search of invertebrates, and the little Pilotbird follows to share in the feast. The Pilotbird is often surprisingly tame and may approach a human observer within arm's reach.

- **NEST** A large, untidy, domed nest with a side entrance, placed on the ground or in a bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Australia.


long tail is often flicked up and down
short, rounded wings
strong feet for feeding on the ground

DISTRIBUTION

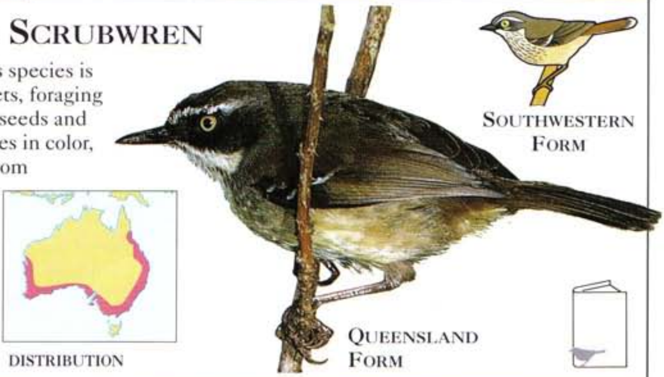
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Sericornis frontalis*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN

A small, brownish bird, this species is often found in dense thickets, foraging just above ground level for seeds and insects. The underside varies in color, from spotted to plain and from white to buff, according to geographical area.

- **NEST** A bulky grass sphere with a side entrance, placed on the ground in undergrowth.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. and E. Australia.



DISTRIBUTION

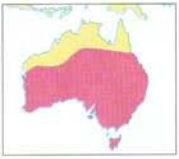
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Acanthiza pusilla*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

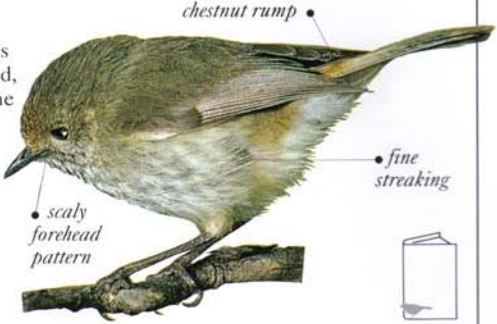
BROWN THORNBILL

A small, insect-hunting bird with red eyes, this species is found in almost all types of woodland, usually in pairs or small parties. It forages in the undergrowth, rarely on the ground.

- **NEST** An untidy, bulky, oval nest with a side entrance, made of grass, and placed on or near the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, mostly south of Tropic of Capricorn.



DISTRIBUTION



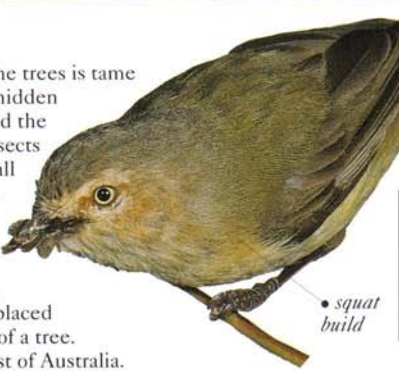
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ✢ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

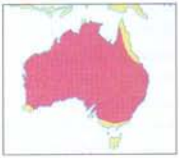
Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Smicrornis brevirostris*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

WEEBILL

This tiny, stubby-billed bird of the trees is tame and inquisitive but usually stays hidden in the outer foliage. It hovers amid the leaves, gleaning and snatching insects from leaf surfaces. For such a small bird, the Weebill has a loud song.

- **NEST** A neat, dome-shaped nest with a spoutlike entrance, constructed of plant down, twigs, and grasses, lined with feathers, and placed high in the outer foliage of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Most of Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

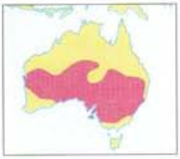
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Aphelocephala leucopsis*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

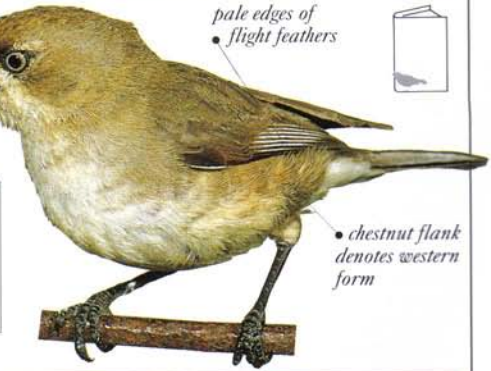
SOUTHERN WHITEFACE

A mainly ground-dwelling bird with a white forehead, this species forages in open spaces on bare, dry ground for seeds, insects, and other invertebrates. It is often seen in small parties, which may suddenly take flight.

- **NEST** A large, untidy sphere of grass with a side entrance, in a low bush or tree hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of southern half of Australia.



DISTRIBUTION


pale edges of flight feathers
chestnut flank denotes western form

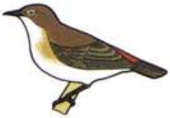
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲ ✢ ⋔	Migration Non-migrant

Family ACANTHIZIDAE	Species *Ephthianura tricolor*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

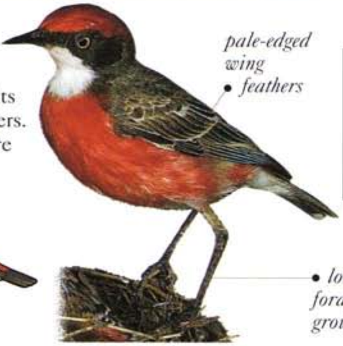
CRIMSON CHAT

Living in arid places with sparse, low plants, the Crimson Chat supplements its insect diet with nectar from desert flowers. It is nomadic, appearing anywhere where rain has produced fresh plant growth.

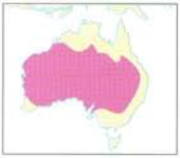
- **NEST** A compact, deep cup of grass and twigs, lined with hair and fine rootlets, and placed close to the ground in low cover.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Arid areas of Australia.



FEMALE



pale-edged wing feathers
long legs for foraging on the ground



DISTRIBUTION

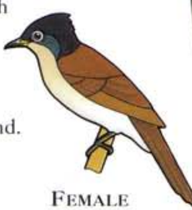
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌵 ⁂ ✈	Migration Nomadic

Family MONARCHIDAE	Species *Terpsiphone paradisi*	L. 8 in (20 cm)/20 in (50 cm)

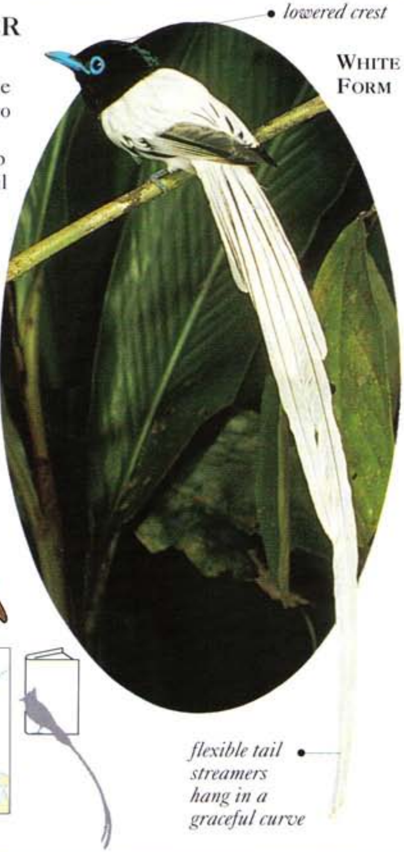
ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER

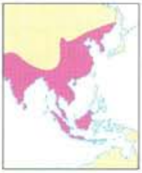
The male of this species is a remarkable bird with a pale body, deep black head and nape, a vivid blue eye ring and bill, and a startling tail that culminates in two extra long feathers known as streamers. These are used principally for display to the female in courtship behavior. When perched, the male often flicks his tail feathers, opening and closing them in a quick, scissorlike movement. His white plumage takes at least four years to develop, immature males resembling females. Birds feed by catching insects in short, aerial chases. They bathe by flying down to water and splashing at the surface, before returning to a perch to tidy and clean their plumage. The call is a short, grating note.

- **NEST** A neat, inverted cone-shaped nest made of grass and plastered with spiderwebs on its outer layer. Inside the structure there is a nesting cup lined with silky down. The nest is placed in a tree, often high above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Indian subcontinent, C. Asia, parts of China, and Korea. Northern populations winter as far south as S. India, Sri Lanka, and parts of E. Indonesia.
- **REMARK** The color of the male's body and tail plumage varies geographically, the Sri Lankan form never becoming white.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

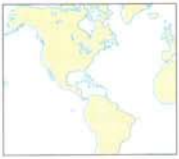
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ✈	Migration Partial migrant

Family MONARCHIDAE	Species *Chasiempis sandwichensis*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

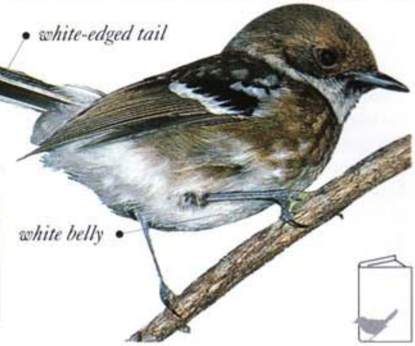
ELEPAIO

This forest bird feeds on insects, which it gleans from the foliage or catches in aerial sallies from a perch. Often seen perching with tail cocked up, it is bold and inquisitive.

- **NEST** A small cup nest made of tree fern scales and lichens, bound together with spiderwebs, and placed in a shrub or low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Hawaiian Islands.



DISTRIBUTION



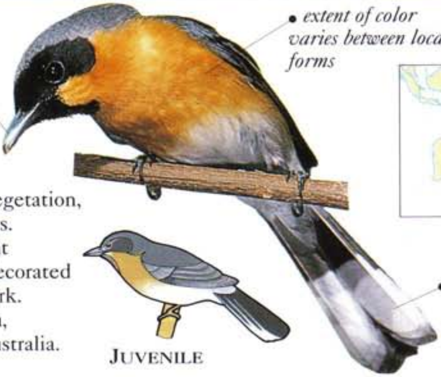
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family MONARCHIDAE	Species *Monarcha trivirgatus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

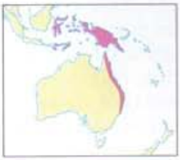
SPECTACLED MONARCH

This rain forest bird has variously colored underparts, from all white to all orange, in the different parts of its range. It favors the lower levels of the vegetation, where it gleans insects and spiders.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of plant fibers, leaf skeletons, and bark, decorated with moss, and placed in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Indonesia, New Guinea, and N.E. and E. Australia.


broad-based bill
extent of color varies between local forms
white-tipped tail

JUVENILE



DISTRIBUTION

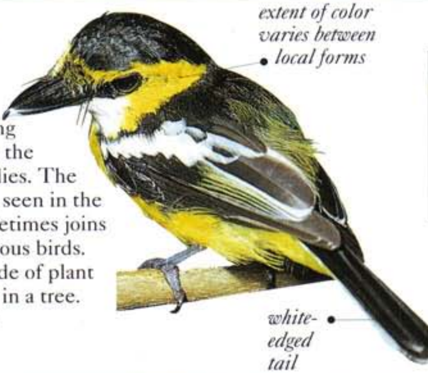
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Partial migrant

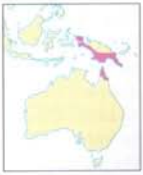
Family MONARCHIDAE	Species *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

YELLOW-BREASTED BOATBILL

The broadened and flattened bill of this species is adapted for catching small insects, mainly gleaned from the foliage but also caught in aerial sallies. The Yellow-breasted Boatbill is usually seen in the canopy of rain forest, where it sometimes joins mixed-species parties of insectivorous birds.

- **NEST** A saucer-shaped nest made of plant stems lined with plant fibers, high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea and N.E. Queensland.


extent of color varies between local forms
white-edged tail



DISTRIBUTION

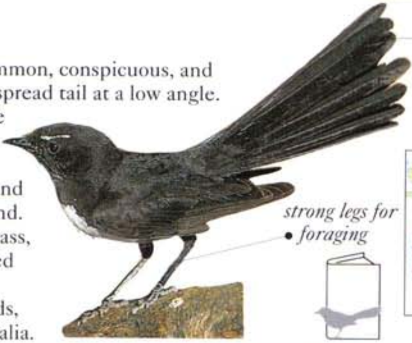
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

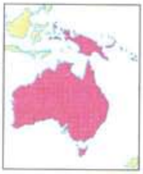
Family MONARCHIDAE	Species *Rhipidura leucophrys*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

WILLIE WAGTAIL

This ground-dwelling fantail is a common, conspicuous, and tame bird, typically seen holding its spread tail at a low angle. It then pivots its body and swings the tail from side to side as it searches the ground for insects and spiders. Insects are also caught on the wing, and in quick, short runs across open ground.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of bark, grass, spiderwebs, and a finer lining, situated in a tree, on a building, or on a post.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Moluccan Islands, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Australia.




DISTRIBUTION

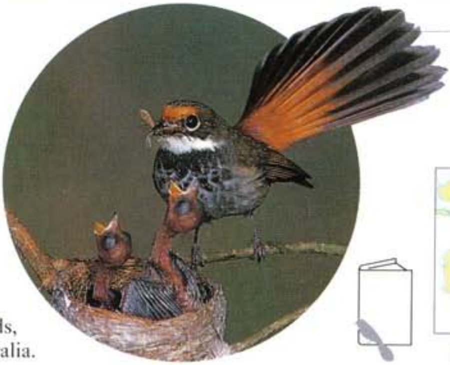
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

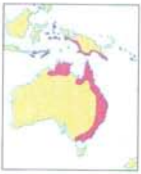
Family MONARCHIDAE	Species *Rhipidura rufifrons*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

RUFOUS FANTAIL

This tree-dwelling fantail lives in the middle levels and undergrowth of rain forest and scrub. It hunts by holding its fanned tail high, tilting it and jerking it from side to side to disturb resting insects. In doing this, it reveals its rufous tail and rump.

- **NEST** A compact cup nest of grass and spiderwebs, with a pendant "tail," in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Pacific islands, New Guinea, and N. and E. Australia.




DISTRIBUTION

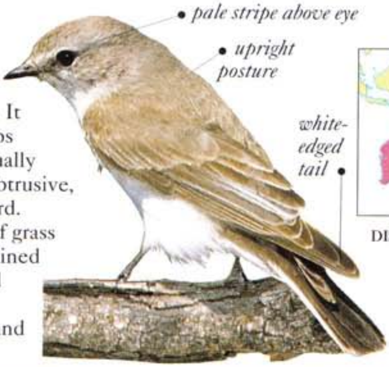
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

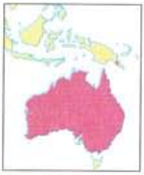
Family EOPSALTRIIDAE	Species *Microeca fascinans*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

JACKY WINTER

A small, gray flycatcher, this species hunts from a perch, often in the cooler parts of the day, such as at dawn and dusk. It flies out to catch insects in the air or swoops to take invertebrates from the ground. Usually in pairs or small parties, the species is unobtrusive, though its "jacky-winter" call is easily heard.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest constructed of grass and rootlets, bound with spiderwebs, and lined with lichens. This is placed on a horizontal tree branch, often high above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Woodland and grassland areas in Australia and S.E. New Guinea.




DISTRIBUTION

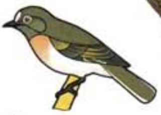
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family EOPSALTRIIDAE | Species *Petroica multicolor* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

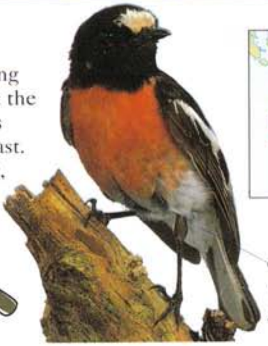
SCARLET ROBIN

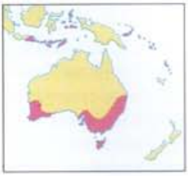
This bird of forest and scrubland feeds by perching on a low branch and watching for invertebrates on the ground, on which it pounces. The male advertises himself to either mate or rival with his scarlet breast.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass and bark strips, spiderwebs, and lichens, in a hollow, on a branch, or in a fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa.
- **REMARKS** Fifteen subspecies are recognized.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

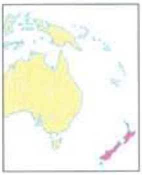
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌲 ▲ ✶ | Migration Non-migrant

Family EOPSALTRIIDAE | Species *Petroica macrocephela* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

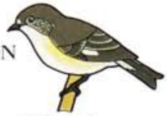
TOMTIT

Small and robinlike, this forest-dwelling bird hunts insects on tree trunks, branches, or the ground. It is aggressive and inquisitive in its behavior, and is not shy of people.

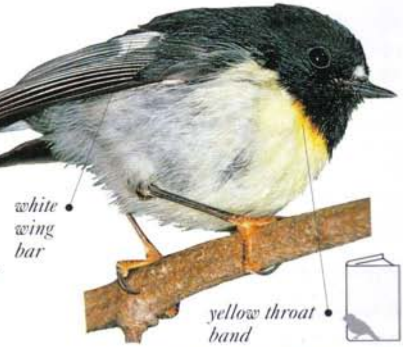
- **NEST** A cup nest of moss and feathers, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand.
- **REMARK** Snares Island form is black.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE



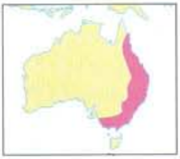
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳 🌲 | Migration Non-migrant

Family EOPSALTRIIDAE | Species *Eopsaltria australis* | Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

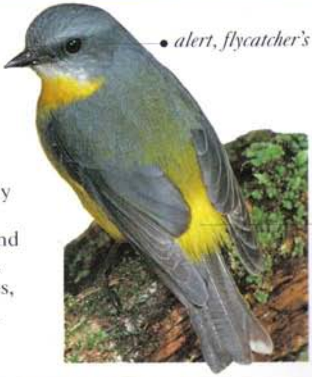
EASTERN YELLOW ROBIN

This robin of forest undergrowth and scrub is so tame and inquisitive that it is likely to approach any people who appear in its territory. It feeds mainly by pouncing from a branch or stem to seize invertebrates on the ground. Despite its name, it is mostly gray, with yellow only on the underside and rump.

- **NEST** A cup nest of bark and grass, bound with spiderwebs, lined with fine grass and leaves, placed in the fork of a sapling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. and S.E. Australia.



DISTRIBUTION



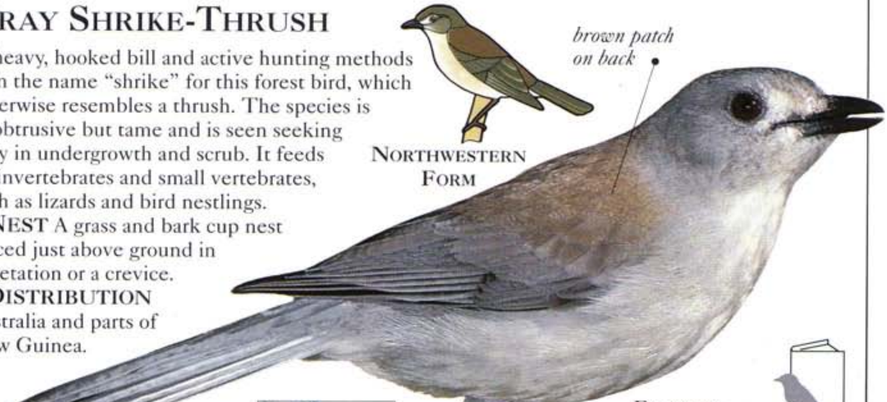
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌲 ▲ ✶ | Migration Non-migrant

Family PACHYCEPHALIDAE	Species *Colluricincla harmonica*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

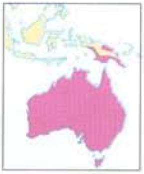
GRAY SHRIKE-THRUSH

A heavy, hooked bill and active hunting methods earn the name "shrike" for this forest bird, which otherwise resembles a thrush. The species is unobtrusive but tame and is seen seeking prey in undergrowth and scrub. It feeds on invertebrates and small vertebrates, such as lizards and bird nestlings.

- **NEST** A grass and bark cup nest placed just above ground in vegetation or a crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia and parts of New Guinea.



- **REMARK** The brown patch on the back is variable or absent according to geographical race. It is largest in northwestern birds.


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

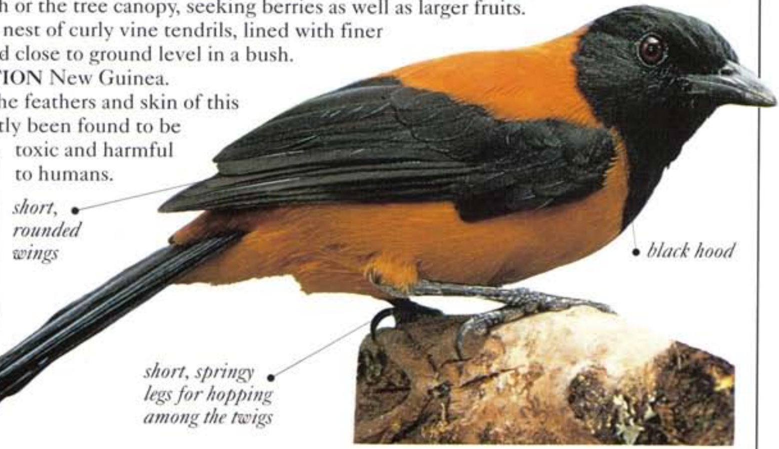
Family PACHYCEPHALIDAE	Species *Pitohui dichrous*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

HOODED PITOHUI

A heavily built, fruit-eating bird, this species lives in tropical rain forest and scrub. Its most unmistakable feature is its coloration – black hood, wings, and tail, and a body color between orange and rufous brown. It is usually seen in pairs or small parties, in the undergrowth or the tree canopy, seeking berries as well as larger fruits.

- **NEST** A cup nest of curly vine tendrils, lined with finer tendrils, situated close to ground level in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea.
- **REMARK** The feathers and skin of this bird have recently been found to be toxic and harmful to humans.

DISTRIBUTION



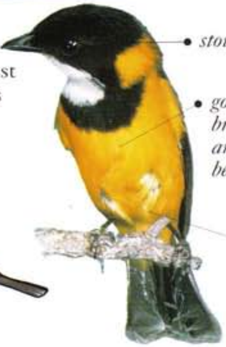
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

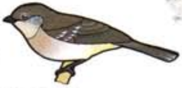
Family PACHYCEPHALIDAE	Species *Pachycephala pectoralis*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

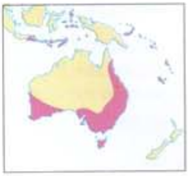
GOLDEN WHISTLER

An insect- and berry-eating bird of rain forest or scrub, this species may be detected by its song. This consists of a musical, whistling phrase ending in a whip-crack note.

- **NEST** A bowl of twigs, bark, grass, and spiderwebs, placed in the fork of a shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Indonesia and Australia, and islands in S.W. Pacific.
- **REMARK** Has a profusion of subspecies, all with different colors.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

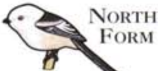
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

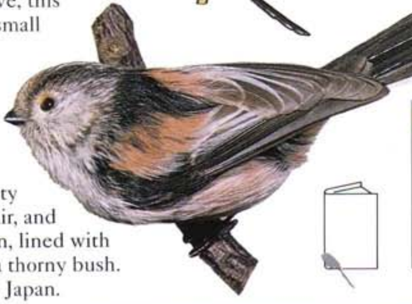
Family AEGITHALIDAE	Species *Aegithalos caudatus*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

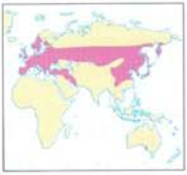
LONG-TAILED TIT

Constantly active and inquisitive, this agile species is usually seen in small flocks that roam the treetops. The birds continually utter thin, "zee-zee-zee" notes and small, explosive calls as they search out insects and seeds.

- **NEST** A domed nest with a side entrance, made of a variety of materials, including moss, hair, and spiderwebs, covered with lichen, lined with feathers, and often situated in a thorny bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia to Japan.


NORTHERN FORM




DISTRIBUTION

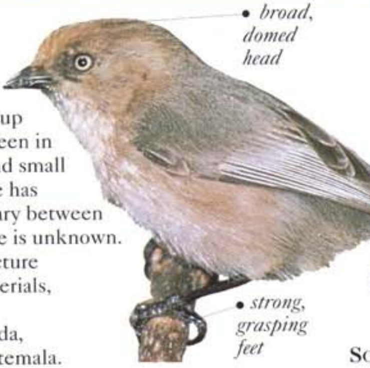
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

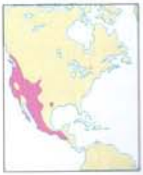
Family AEGITHALIDAE	Species *Psaltriparus minimus*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

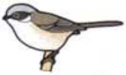
BUSHTIT

A familiar bird of scrubland, often on mountainsides, the Bushtit often forms parties of up to 20 birds and is frequently seen in gardens. It feeds on insects and small seeds. In some areas, the male has black ear patches, but these vary between individuals and its significance is unknown.

- **NEST** A finely woven structure of grasses and other plant materials, suspended from a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. Canada, W. USA, W. Mexico, and Guatemala.




DISTRIBUTION


SOUTHERN FORM

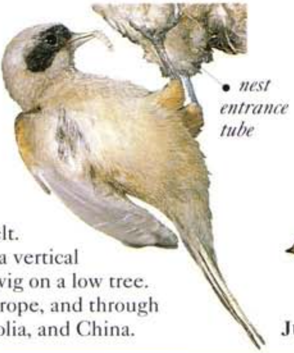
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

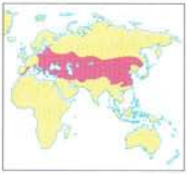
Family REMIZIDAE	Species *Remiz pendulinus*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

PENDULINE TIT

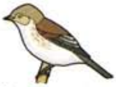
A sprightly, active bird of reedbeds and thickets, the Penduline Tit feeds on insects in summer and seeds in winter. The name refers to its "pendant" nest, which may take several weeks to build.

- **NEST** A hanging nest made of woolly willow seeds and down, which the birds repeatedly peck until the texture is like felt. The nest, with a round nest chamber and a vertical entrance tube, is attached to the tip of a twig on a low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of S. and E. Europe, and through the Middle East to parts of Siberia, Mongolia, and China.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

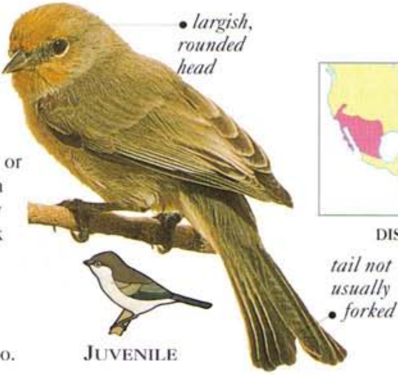
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

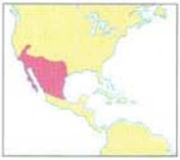
Family REMIZIDAE	Species *Auriparus flaviceps*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

VERDIN

A small, inconspicuous bird with a sharp, black bill, the Verdin inhabits brushy desert valleys and scrub, especially extensive scrub of mesquite bushes. It is usually seen flitting among the outer twigs or the undersides of leaves of a desert bush in search of insect prey. The Verdin is solitary outside the breeding season. Juveniles lack the yellow head and brown wing patches.

- **NEST** A ball-shaped nest constructed of thorny twigs with a side entrance, and placed in a bush or low in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. USA and N. Mexico.





DISTRIBUTION

JUVENILE

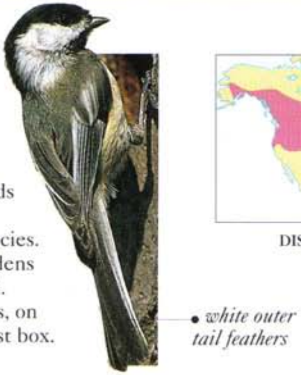
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

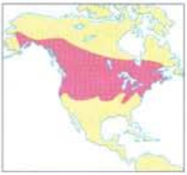
Family PARIDAE	Species *Parus atricapillus*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

This tame, acrobatic tit with a distinctive "chickadee" call is often seen in small groups that move continuously through woodland. It is also found in small groves of trees, thickets, and suburban gardens. Its diet consists of insects, seeds, and berries. After pairing for the breeding season, birds form small, noisy flocks in autumn, and these then team up with similar small flocks of birds of other species. Black-capped Chickadees are readily attracted to gardens in which sunflower seeds, suet, or peanuts are offered.

- **NEST** A cup nest of plant down, feathers, and hairs, on a moss base, in a cavity cut in rotting wood, or in a nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Canada and N. USA.





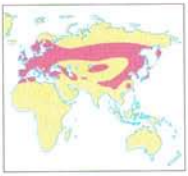
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PARIDAE | Species *Parus ater* | Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

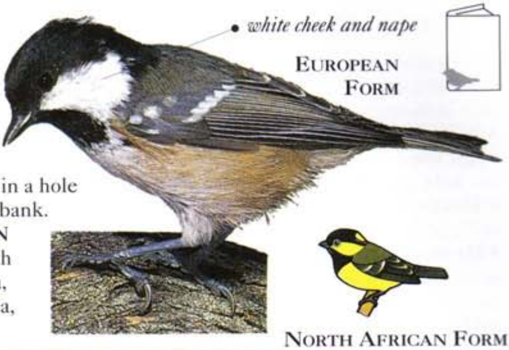
COAL TIT

Found in all types of woodland in its range, this insect-eating bird feeds in the treetops, but often comes to ground level to nest.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A cup nest made of moss, in a hole in a tree, stump, or bank.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Most of Europe with parts of N.W. Africa, Middle East, Siberia, C. and E. Asia.



NORTH AFRICAN FORM

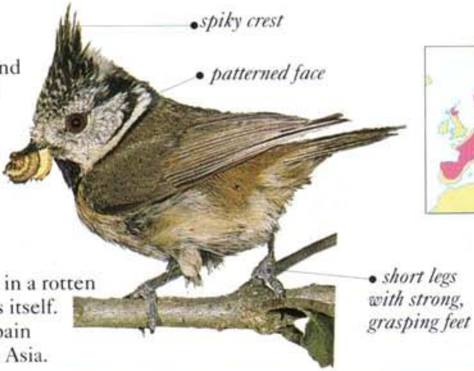
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌲🌲🌲 🌳🌲 | Migration Non-migrant

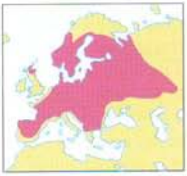
Family PARIDAE | Species *Parus cristatus* | Length 4½ in (11.5 cm)

CRESTED TIT

Identified by its spiky crest and soft, trilling song, the Crested Tit is almost wholly a bird of coniferous woodland. For most of the year it feeds in pine foliage, often high in the crowns of trees, where it is difficult to see. It feeds on insects, seeds, and berries.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a hole in a rotten tree, which the bird excavates itself.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Spain through most of Europe to C. Asia.





DISTRIBUTION

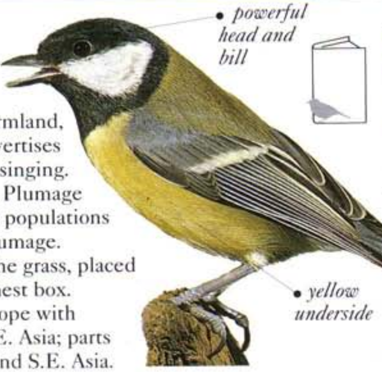
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳🌲 | Migration Non-migrant

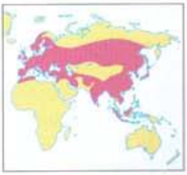
Family PARIDAE | Species *Parus major* | Length 5½ in (14 cm)

GREAT TIT

Bigger and bolder than most other tits, this bird lives in deciduous or mixed woodland, farmland, parks, and semi-open areas. It advertises its presence with loud, repetitive singing. Its diet includes insects and fruit. Plumage varies geographically, some of the populations in Asia lacking green or yellow plumage.

- **NEST** A cup nest lined with fine grass, placed in a hole in a tree or wall, or in a nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Most of Europe with N.W. Africa; parts of Siberia and E. Asia; parts of C. Asia, Indian subcontinent, and S.E. Asia.





DISTRIBUTION

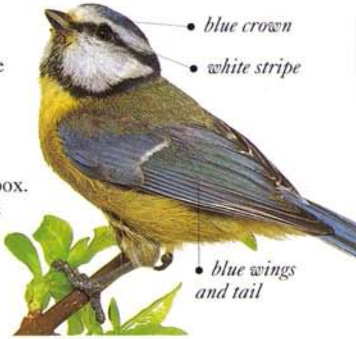
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳🌲 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

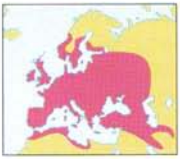
Family	Species	Length
PARIDAE	*Parus caeruleus*	4¼ in (11.5 cm)

BLUE TIT

Well known as a garden bird, the Blue Tit is also common in woodland. Its food includes insects, seeds, and fruit.

- **NEST** A nest of moss, grass, and twigs, lined with grass and feathers, in a hole in a tree or wall, or in a nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe and parts of N. Africa and the Middle East.
- **REMARK** A readiness to investigate new food sources, and to use nest boxes, explain the Blue Tit's frequent appearance as a garden bird.





DISTRIBUTION

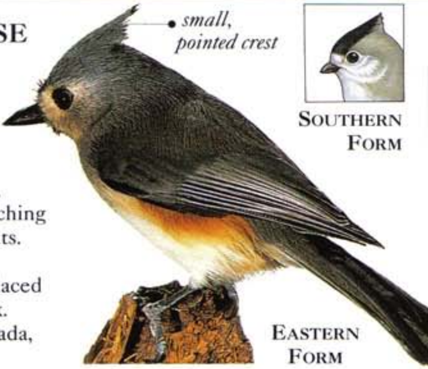
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike	🌳 🏠	Non-migrant

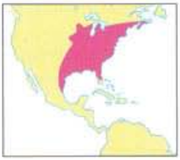
Family	Species	Length
PARIDAE	*Parus bicolor*	6¼ in (16 cm)

TUFTED TITMOUSE

Naturally a bird of woodland, forests, and scrub, the Tufted Titmouse is a frequent visitor to gardens, particularly where winter food is provided. It is seen in pairs and small parties, also joining mixed flocks, searching for insects, seeds, fruit, and nuts.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of hair, wool, leaves, and grass, placed in a tree hole, post, or nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Canada, E. USA, and N.E. Mexico.





DISTRIBUTION

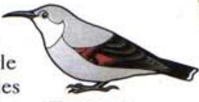
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike	🌳 ✶ 🌲	Non-migrant

Family	Species	Length
SITTIDAE	*Tichodroma muraria*	6¾ in (17 cm)

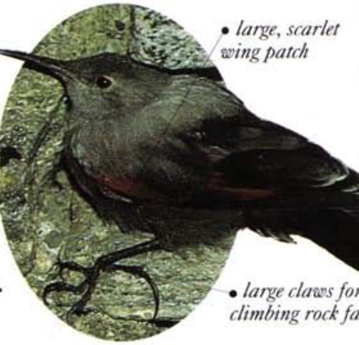
WALLCREEPER

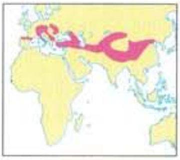
Climbing in short hops up rock faces, this bird uses its long, curved bill to probe crevices for insects.

- **NEST** Placed in a rock crevice, the nest is made of roots, grass, and moss, and lined with wool and hair.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe to E. Asia.
- **REMARK** Its jerky, flitting style of flight resembles that of a butterfly.



FEMALE


large, scarlet wing patch
large claws for climbing rock faces



DISTRIBUTION

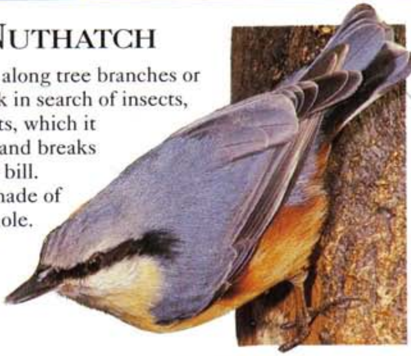
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ	▲ ⛰	Partial migrant

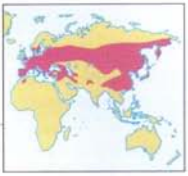
Family SITTIDAE	Species *Sitta europaea*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

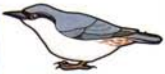
EURASIAN NUTHATCH

Usually seen running along tree branches or up and down the trunk in search of insects, this bird also takes nuts, which it wedges into a crevice and breaks open with blows of its bill.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of bark flakes, in a tree hole. The entrance is often plastered with mud to reduce its size.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Eurasia.




DISTRIBUTION


SIBERIAN FORM

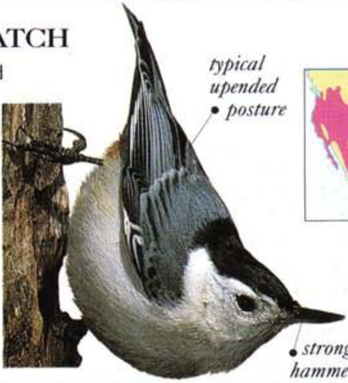
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

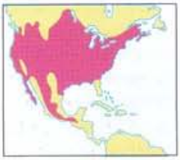
Family SITTIDAE	Species *Sitta carolinensis*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Common in deciduous woodland and mixed forest areas within its range, the White-breasted Nuthatch characteristically works its way up, down, and across tree trunks in all directions as it forages for small insects. Like other nuthatches, it will also take nuts, which it hammers open with blows from its stout bill. Its song is a series of low, nasal whistles.

- **NEST** A hole in a tree, often lined with bark chippings and softer materials.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of S. Canada, much of USA, and mountains of Mexico.




DISTRIBUTION

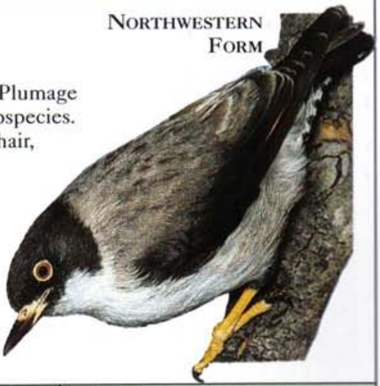
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

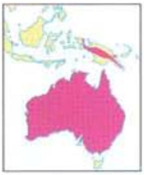
Family NEOSITTIDAE	Species *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

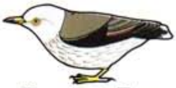
VARIED SITTELLA

This small and gregarious species forages actively among the branches and twigs of trees, feeding on invertebrates. Plumage colors on the head, back, and wing stripe vary with the subspecies.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of insect cocoons, spiderwebs, hair, and wool, camouflaged with bark flakes, and built into an upright fork of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Australia and Highlands of New Guinea.


NORTHWESTERN FORM


DISTRIBUTION


EASTERN FORM

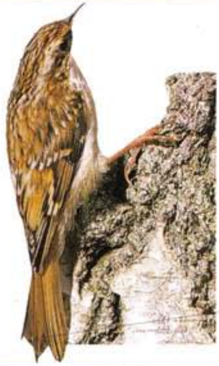
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

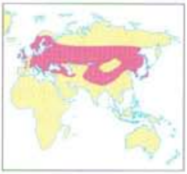
Family CERTHIIDAE | **Species** *Certhia familiaris* | **Length** 4¾ in (12 cm)

EURASIAN TREECREEPER

This gray-brown bird is usually seen climbing a tree trunk in short spurts. It pauses to feed, searching a fissure in the bark for spiders or insects with its tweezerlike bill. While stationary, it presses its stiff, spiny tail against the bark for balance. It then swoops down low before climbing the next tree.

- **NEST** A pocket-shaped nest made of plant fibers, placed behind loose bark, in a split tree, or behind ivy.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of W. Europe and from E. Europe through C. Asia to Japan.




DISTRIBUTION

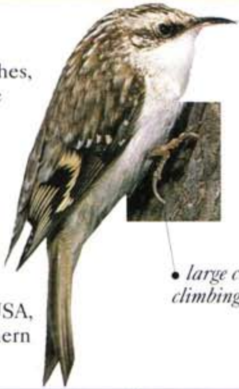
Plumage Sexes alike | **Habitat** 🌲🌲🌲 🌳🌳 | **Migration** Non-migrant

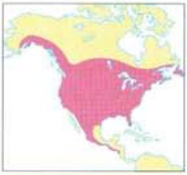
Family CERTHIIDAE | **Species** *Certhia americana* | **Length** 5 in (13 cm)

BROWN CREEPER

Adapted for climbing tree trunks and large branches, the Brown Creeper presses its stiff tail against the bark, both for balance and support. Like the Eurasian Treecreeper, it works its way up one tree after another, searching any crevice in the bark for its prey of spiders and insects.

- **NEST** A pocket-shaped nest constructed of plant fibers and flakes of bark, placed behind loose bark, in a split tree, or behind a heavy growth of ivy.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. and S. Canada, most of USA, and mountains of C. America to Nicaragua. Northern populations winter in S.E. USA and N. Mexico.




DISTRIBUTION

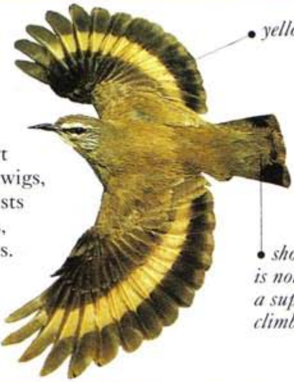
Plumage Sexes alike | **Habitat** 🌲🌲🌲 🌳🌳 | **Migration** Partial migrant

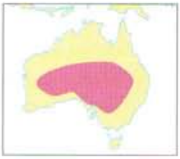
Family CLIMACTERIDAE | **Species** *Climacteris affinis* | **Length** 6 in (15 cm)

WHITE-BROWED TREECREEPER

Although called a treecreeper, this bird feeds on the ground as much as it does in trees. It does not use the tail as a support when climbing, and tends to perch across twigs, rather than on the tree trunk. Its diet consists principally of ants. Like other treecreepers, this species is usually seen singly or in pairs.

- **NEST** A nest made in a hollow in a tree, usually near ground level, and lined with animal hairs and grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Interior of Australia.




DISTRIBUTION

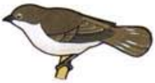
Plumage Sexes alike | **Habitat** 🌳🌳 🌿 | **Migration** Non-migrant

Family DICAEIDAE	Species *Melanocharis versteri*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

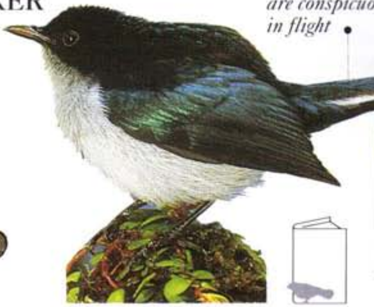
FAN-TAILED BERRYPECKER

This shy, rain forest bird feeds mainly on berries from the undergrowth, also taking some insects. It often hovers to pluck berries or glean insects from the foliage.

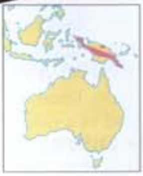
- **NEST** A neat, deep cup nest made of fibers torn from ferns, decorated with lichens, and placed in the fork of a tree or on a horizontal branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea.



FEMALE



white tail patches are conspicuous in flight



DISTRIBUTION

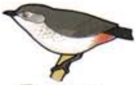
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family DICAEIDAE	Species *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

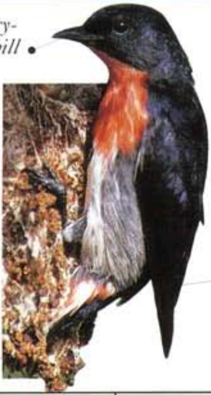
MISTLETOEBIRD

This small, short-tailed bird lives in rain forest, open forest, and scrubland. It feeds particularly on mistletoe berries (voiding their sticky seeds unharmed on branches, where they germinate and grow) and also takes nectar, flower petals, and insects. Mistletoebirds form small, nomadic flocks, which move about the foliage from tree to tree in search of fruiting mistletoe plants.

- **NEST** A domed, hanging nest of plant down and spiderwebs, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia and parts of E. Indonesia.

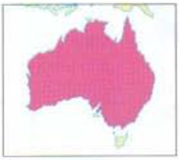


FEMALE



sharp, berry-snatching bill

long wings for nomadic flight



DISTRIBUTION

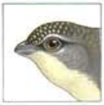
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 ✶ 🌳🌳🌳	Migration Nomadic

Family DICAEIDAE	Species *Pardalotus punctatus*	Length 3½ in (9 cm)

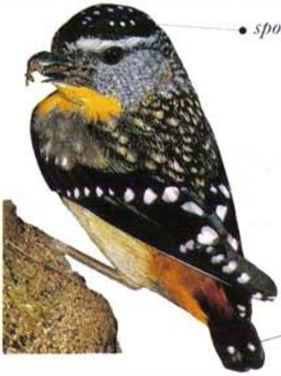
SPOTTED PARDALOTE

Usually seen singly or in pairs, this tiny, brightly colored bird forages in the upper foliage of trees for insects, which it catches in passing, often taking them from the undersides of leaves, in the random method known as "gleaning." As a treetop bird, it is more often heard than seen.

- **NEST** A domed nest, made of bark fragments, either at the end of a tunnel dug into a bank or in a tree stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. and E. Australia.

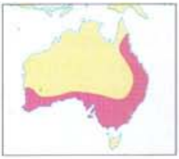


FEMALE



spotted crown

short tail



DISTRIBUTION

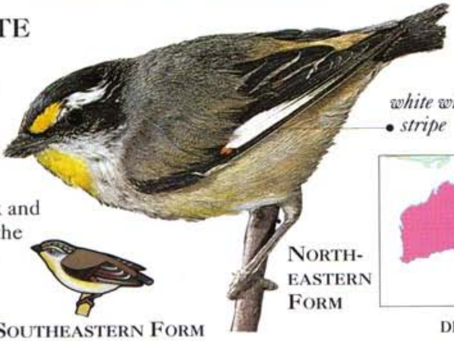
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳 🌳 ✶	Migration Non-migrant

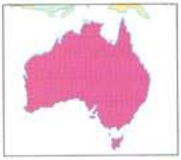
Family DICAEIDAE	Species *Pardalotus striatus*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

STRIATED PARDALOTE

Small and inquisitively active, this bird hunts and gleans invertebrates in the outer twigs and leaves of trees. When not breeding, birds form flocks that feed together, uttering constant, short calls.

- **NEST** A domed structure of bark and grass, lined with finer materials, at the end of a tunnel, or in a tree hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia. Tasmanian subspecies winters on mainland.




DISTRIBUTION

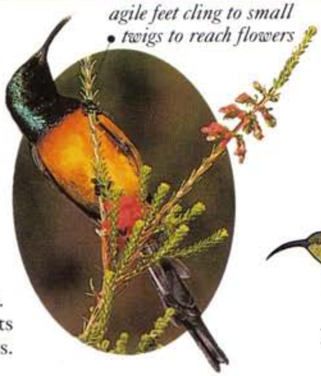
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

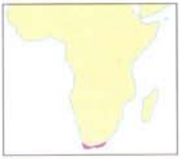
Family NECTARINIIDAE	Species *Nectarinia violacea*	L. 6¾ in (17 cm)/5 in (13 cm)

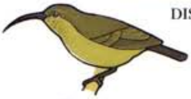
ORANGE-BREASTED SUNBIRD

This small sunbird feeds on nectar and small insects with its long, slender bill. It is found on heathland, where up to 100 birds will congregate at a food source.

- **NEST** An oval nest of rootlets, bound with spiderwebs and lined with seed fluff, usually in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. South Africa.
- **REMARK** The male's tail accounts for the size difference between sexes.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

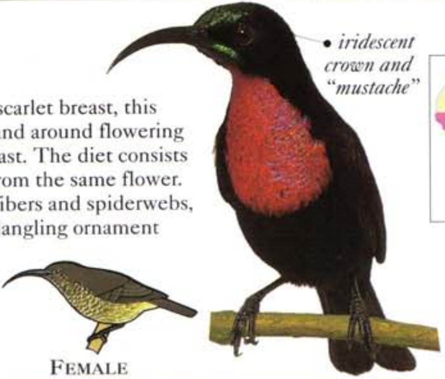
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

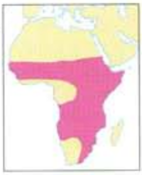
Family NECTARINIIDAE	Species *Nectarinia senegalensis*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD

Identified by the male's brilliant, scarlet breast, this species is often seen in groups in and around flowering trees. Females lack the scarlet breast. The diet consists of insects and nectar, sometimes from the same flower.

- **NEST** A hanging nest of plant fibers and spiderwebs, with a domed top, a porch, and a dangling ornament known as a "beard." The nest is suspended from a thin twig, often near a wasps' nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa south of the Sahara.




DISTRIBUTION

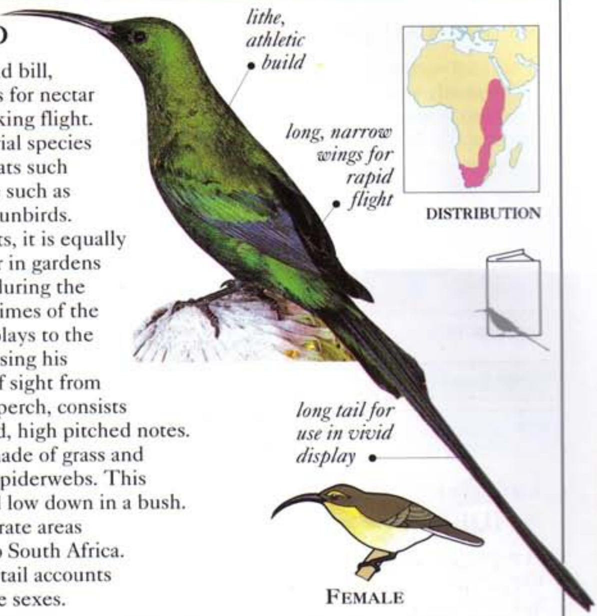
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family NECTARINIIDAE	Species *Nectarinia famosa*	L. 10 in (25 cm)/6 in (15 cm)

MALACHITE SUNBIRD

Notable for its extremely long tail and bill, the Malachite Sunbird probes flowers for nectar and often also catches insects in hawking flight. It is an active, aggressive, and territorial species that may often be seen in open habitats such as grassland, defending a feeding site such as a flowering bush or tree, from other sunbirds. Adaptable to a wide variety of habitats, it is equally at home on scrubby mountainsides or in gardens and parks. It is usually seen in pairs during the breeding season, but singly at other times of the year. During courtship, the male displays to the female by shivering his wings and raising his tail. The song, delivered either out of sight from within a bush or from a conspicuous perch, consists of piping call notes, followed by rapid, high pitched notes.

- **NEST** An oval-shaped structure made of grass and other vegetable matter, bound with spiderwebs. This is lined with fine material and placed low down in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** A series of separate areas in mountain regions from Ethiopia to South Africa.
- **REMARK** The male bird's longer tail accounts for the length difference between the sexes.


lithe, athletic build
long, narrow wings for rapid flight
long tail for use in vivid display
DISTRIBUTION
FEMALE

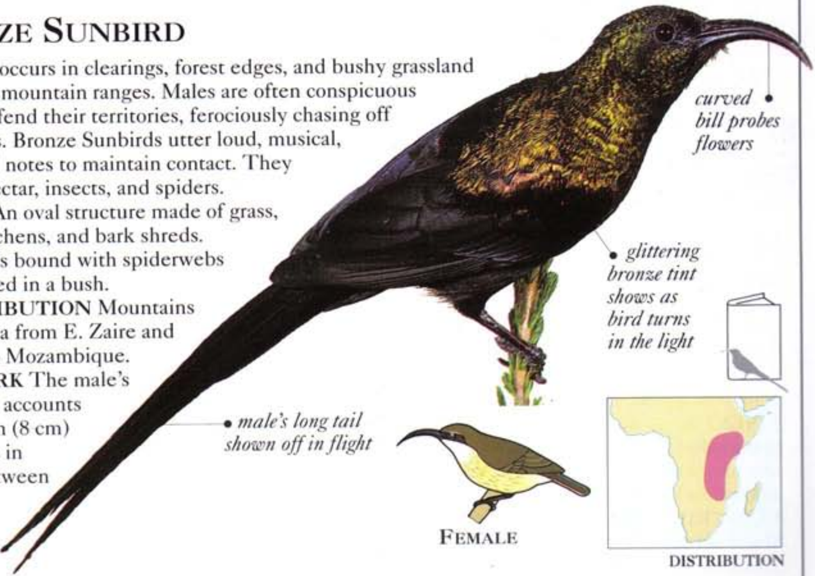
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family NECTARINIIDAE	Species *Nectarinia kilimensis*	L. 9 in (23 cm)/6 in (15 cm)

BRONZE SUNBIRD

This bird occurs in clearings, forest edges, and bushy grassland in tropical mountain ranges. Males are often conspicuous as they defend their territories, ferociously chasing off rival males. Bronze Sunbirds utter loud, musical, piping call notes to maintain contact. They feed on nectar, insects, and spiders.

- **NEST** An oval structure made of grass, flowers, lichens, and bark shreds. The nest is bound with spiderwebs and situated in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountains in E. Africa from E. Zaire and Uganda to Mozambique.
- **REMARK** The male's longer tail accounts for the 3 in (8 cm) difference in length between the sexes.


curved bill probes flowers
glittering bronze tint shows as bird turns in the light
male's long tail shown off in flight
FEMALE
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

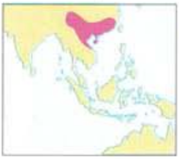
Family NECTARINIIDAE

Species *Aethopyga christinae*

Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

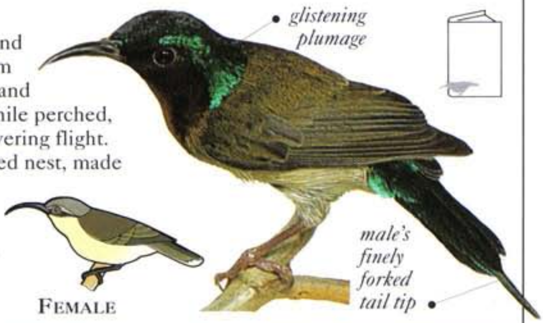
FORK-TAILED SUNBIRD

This bird occurs in forests and clearings and is commonly seen in tall trees, darting from flower to flower. It lives mainly on nectar and occasionally on insects, usually feeding while perched, but sometimes in hovering flight.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A ball-shaped nest, made of grass, bound with spiderwebs, and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. China and N. Vietnam.



FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ

Habitat

Migration Non-migrant

Family NECTARINIIDAE

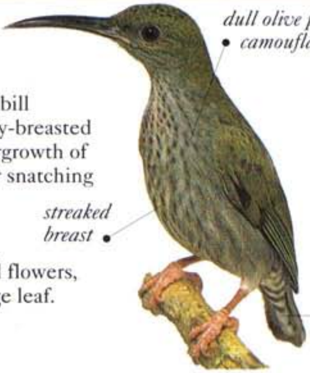
Species *Arachnothera affinis*

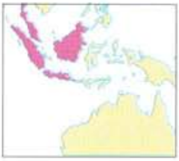
Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

GRAY-BREASTED SPIDERHUNTER

A strongly built bird with a short tail and a bill that looks disproportionately large, the Gray-breasted Spiderhunter is seen in the trees and undergrowth of tropical rain forest. The long bill is used for snatching spiders from their webs, for drinking nectar from flowers, and for taking seeds.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest of grass stems, decorated with young fern fronds and small flowers, and suspended from the underside of a large leaf.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and Bali.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

Migration Non-migrant

Family ZOSTEROPIDAE

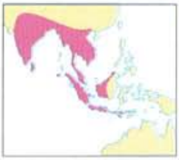
Species *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

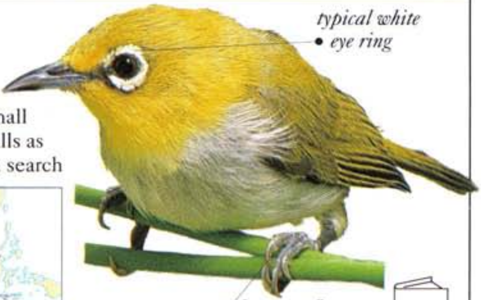
ORIENTAL WHITE-EYE

Common in open, scrub-covered country and forest edges, this bird is equally at home in bushes and trees. It is usually seen in pairs or small flocks of up to 30 birds, uttering high pitched calls as they forage quickly through the upper foliage in search of insects, nectar, and fruits.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest made of fine roots, leaf ribs, and stems, and placed in a tree or bamboo clump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Indian subcontinent, S. China, and parts of S.E. Asia.



DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

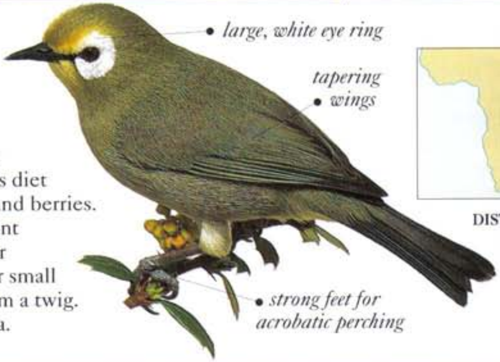
Migration Non-migrant

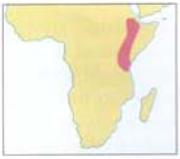
Family ZOSTEROPIDAE	Species *Zosterops poliogaster*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

BROAD-RINGED WHITE-EYE

Fairly commonly found in mountain rain forests, this bird occurs in large, noisy flocks that move about in search of food. Its diet consists of a mixture of insects and berries.

- **NEST** A deep cup nest of plant fibers or lichens, lined with finer fibers, and attached to bushes or small trees, sometimes suspended from a twig.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.E. Africa.


• *large, white eye ring*
tapering • *wings*
• *strong feet for acrobatic perching*



DISTRIBUTION

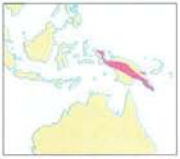
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family MELIPHAGIDAE	Species *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

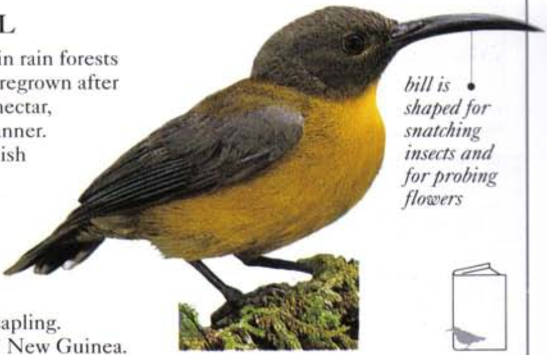
GREY-WINGED LONGBILL

This bird is found at the edge of mountain rain forests and in secondary growth (bushes or trees regrown after forest clearance). It feeds on insects and nectar, flitting among the foliage in a nervous manner.

- **NEST** A deep, pouchlike nest of greenish plant material and spiderwebs, decorated with the white cases of spiders' eggs, and placed on the branch of a slender sapling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea.



DISTRIBUTION


bill is • *shaped for snatching insects and for probing flowers*

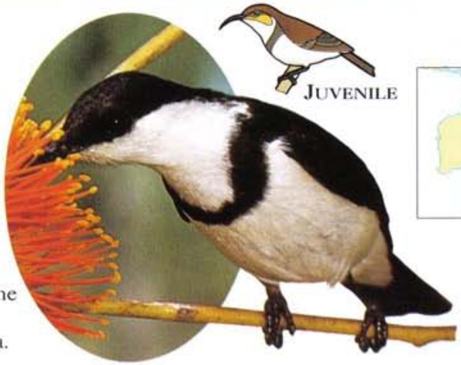
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

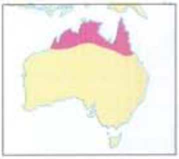
Family MELIPHAGIDAE	Species *Certhionyx pectoralis*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

BANDED HONEYEATER

This species inhabits woodland and waterside foliage, traveling nomadically in search of nectar, insects, and flowers. Flocks of noisy, aggressive birds are seen feeding in blossoming trees.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass and bark, bound with spiderwebs, and suspended in the outer foliage of a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳 🌳 ≈	Migration Nomadic

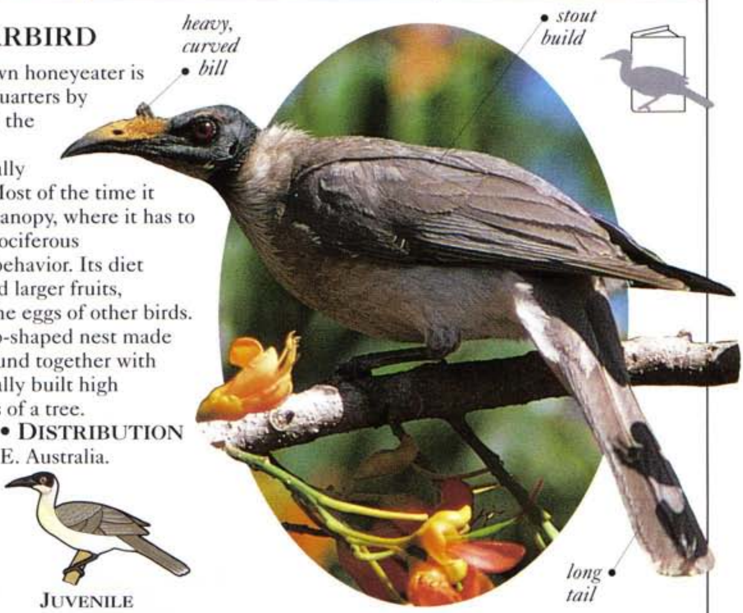
Family MELIPHAGIDAE	Species *Philemon corniculatus*	Length 14½ in (37 cm)

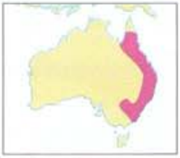
NOISY FRIARBIRD

This large, gray-brown honeyeater is recognized at close quarters by an upright growth on the top of its bulky bill, and by its almost totally naked, black head. Most of the time it remains high in the canopy, where it has to be identified by its vociferous calls and aggressive behavior. Its diet consists of berries and larger fruits, insects, nectar, and the eggs of other birds.

• **NEST** A large, cup-shaped nest made of grass and bark, bound together with spiderwebs, and usually built high in the outer branches of a tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** E. Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

JUVENILE

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family MELIPHAGIDAE	Species *Entomyzon cyanotis*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER

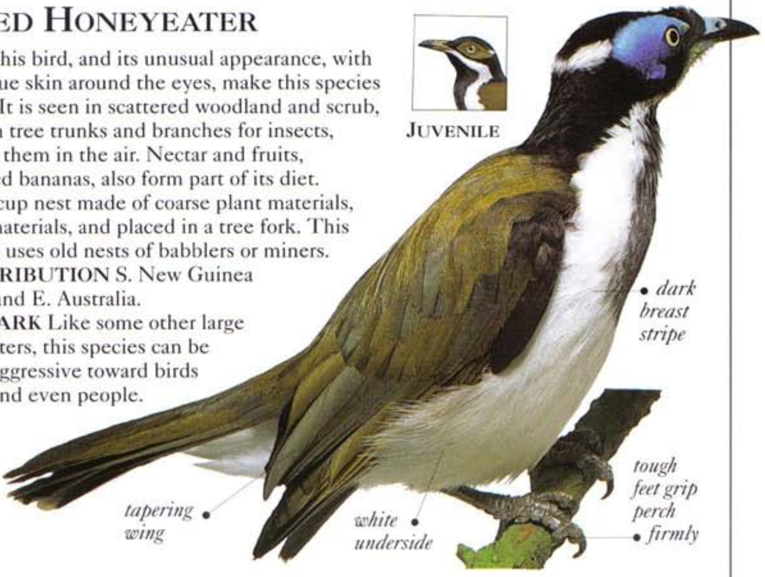
The large size of this bird, and its unusual appearance, with patches of bare, blue skin around the eyes, make this species very conspicuous. It is seen in scattered woodland and scrub, where it forages on tree trunks and branches for insects, as well as catching them in the air. Nectar and fruits, including cultivated bananas, also form part of its diet.

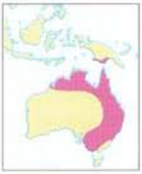
• **NEST** A bulky cup nest made of coarse plant materials, lined with softer materials, and placed in a tree fork. This species sometimes uses old nests of babblers or miners.

• **DISTRIBUTION** S. New Guinea and N. and E. Australia.

• **REMARK** Like some other large honeyeaters, this species can be aggressive toward birds and even people.

JUVENILE





DISTRIBUTION

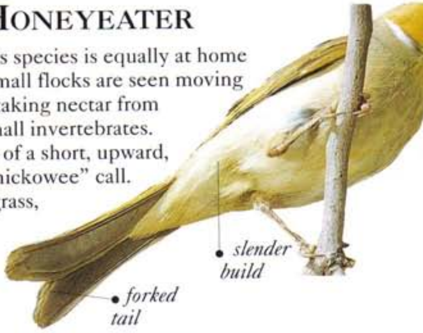
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌿	Migration Non-migrant

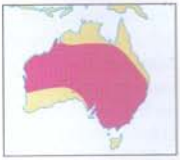
Family **MELIPHAGIDAE** | Species *Lichenostomus penicillatus* | Length 7 in (18 cm)

WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER

A lively, active honeyeater, this species is equally at home in town gardens and forests. Small flocks are seen moving about in open stands of trees, taking nectar from tree blossoms, and catching small invertebrates. The courtship display consists of a short, upward, fluttering flight and a shrill "chickowee" call.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass, lined with feathers and hairs, bound with spiderwebs, and suspended in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Through much of Australia.





DISTRIBUTION

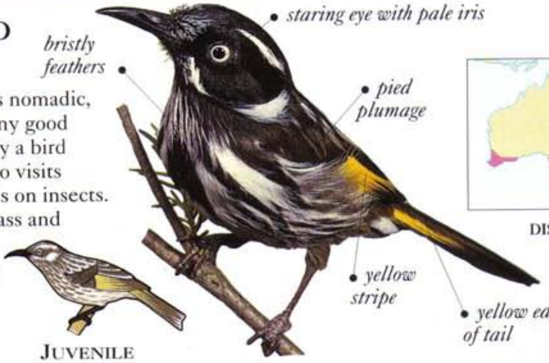
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

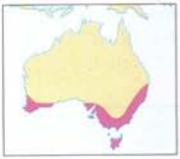
Family **MELIPHAGIDAE** | Species *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* | Length 7 in (18 cm)

NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER

This noisy, restless bird is nomadic, and flocks will gather at any good source of nectar. Originally a bird of coastal heathland, it also visits gardens and parks. It feeds on insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grass and bark, bound with spiderwebs, with a softer lining, placed in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. and S.W. Australia.





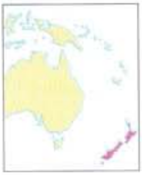
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant/nomadic

Family **MELIPHAGIDAE** | Species *Anthornis melanura* | Length 8 in (20 cm)

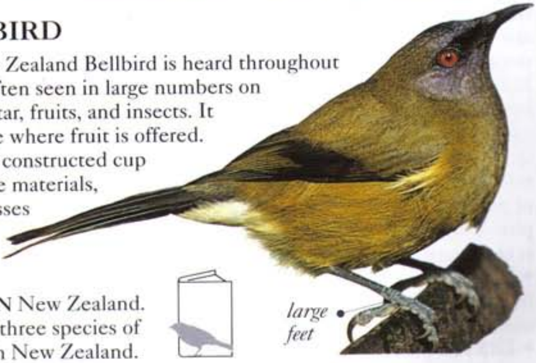
NEW ZEALAND BELLBIRD

The liquid, bell-like song of the New Zealand Bellbird is heard throughout the year. It is a common forest bird, often seen in large numbers on flowering trees, where it feeds on nectar, fruits, and insects. It also visits gardens near the forest edge where fruit is offered.



DISTRIBUTION

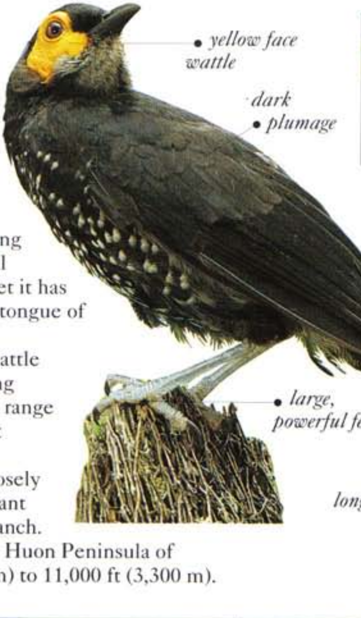
- **NEST** A loosely constructed cup nest made of coarse materials, lined with fine grasses and feathers, and placed in the fork of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand.
- **REMARK** Only three species of honeyeater occur in New Zealand.

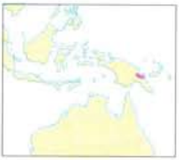


Plumage Sexes differ slightly | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family Meliphagidae	Species *Melipotes ater*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

SPANGLED HONEYEATER




DISTRIBUTION

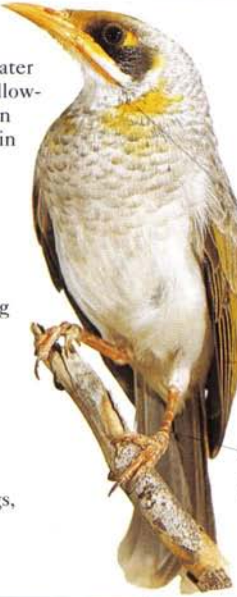
Although conspicuous because of its large size and colorful appearance, this honeyeater is rather quiet and unobtrusive. Sluggish in general behavior, it occurs in the upper branches of the higher mountain rain forests, usually singly or in pairs, feeding on fruit such as berries, with occasional insects. Presumably because of this diet it has a short, heavy bill and lacks the brush tongue of nectar-feeding species. The typical call is "chut, chut." The yellow face wattle appears capable of becoming red during sexual displays. Because of its isolated range and retiring habits in a difficult habitat for field work, little is known about it.

- **NEST** A bulky, cup-shaped nest, loosely made out of moss, leaves, and other plant material, hanging from the end of a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Mountains of the Huon Peninsula of W. New Guinea, from 3,900 ft (1,200 m) to 11,000 ft (3,300 m).

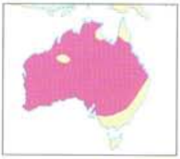
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family Meliphagidae	Species *Manorina flavigula*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

YELLOW-THROATED MINER



yellow throat patch
strong wings for vigorous flight
strong legs for feeding on the ground


DISTRIBUTION

This heavily built, generally gray-brown honeyeater is a sociable and attractive bird, with a strong, yellow-colored wash on its breast and forehead. It lives in small colonies, often in scattered groups of trees in otherwise open country. Birds probably travel nomadically between such feeding and roosting sites. They feed predominantly on the ground, taking insects and seeds, but they also ascend the trees to take berries, fruit, and sometimes nectar from flowers. Yellow-throated Miners are aggressive birds, with much quarreling within the colony as well as vigorous defense against birds of other species. Often this defensive behavior involves the entire flock, taking wing and chasing a marauding bird of prey out of its territory, mobbing, and even physically attacking the intruder in flight. There is cooperative care of nestlings within the colony.

- **NEST** A loose cup nest made of grass and twigs, lined with wool and feathers, and placed in a tree fork up to 20 ft (6 m) from the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Australia.

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

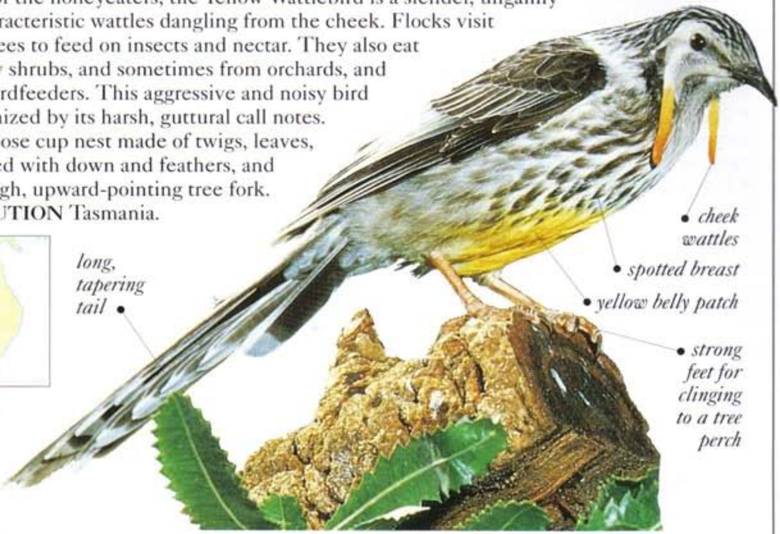
Family	Species	Length
MELIPHAGIDAE	*Anthochaera paradoxa*	18½ in (47 cm)

YELLOW WATTLEBIRD

The largest of the honeyeaters, the Yellow Wattlebird is a slender, ungainly bird with characteristic wattles dangling from the cheek. Flocks visit eucalyptus trees to feed on insects and nectar. They also eat fruit from low shrubs, and sometimes from orchards, and use garden birdfeeders. This aggressive and noisy bird can be recognized by its harsh, guttural call notes.

- **NEST** A loose cup nest made of twigs, leaves, and bark, lined with down and feathers, and placed in a high, upward-pointing tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tasmania.

DISTRIBUTION


long, tapering tail
cheek wattles
spotted breast
yellow belly patch
strong feet for clinging to a tree perch

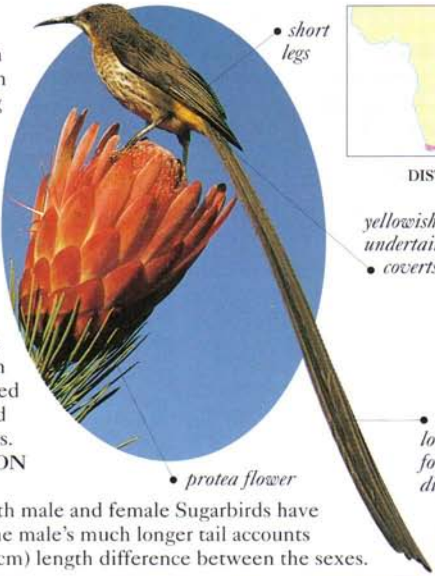
Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes alike		Non-migrant

Family	Species	L.
MELIPHAGIDAE	*Promerops cafer*	18 in (46 cm)/9 in (23 cm)

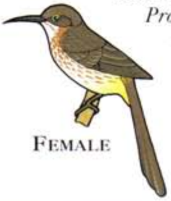
SUGARBIRD

This heathland bird is seen singly or in pairs during the breeding season, and in small groups, often at a favored feeding site, at other times of year. The Sugarbird exploits the *Protea* plant in a number of ways. It feeds on *Protea* nectar, which supplements its diet of insects and spiders. The male perches conspicuously on the flower to call and to show his presence to potential rivals for breeding territory.

- **NEST** An untidy cup nest made of twigs, grass, bracken, roots, and pine needles, neatly lined with *Protea* down, and placed in forked or tangled branches of bushes.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. South Africa.
- **REMARK** Both male and female Sugarbirds have long tails, but the male's much longer tail accounts for the 9 in (23 cm) length difference between the sexes.


short legs
yellowish undertail coverts
male's long tail for aerial display
protea flower

DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

Plumage	Habitat	Migration
Sexes differ		Non-migrant

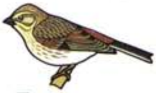
Family EMBERIZIDAE
Species *Emberiza citrinella*
Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

YELLOWHAMMER

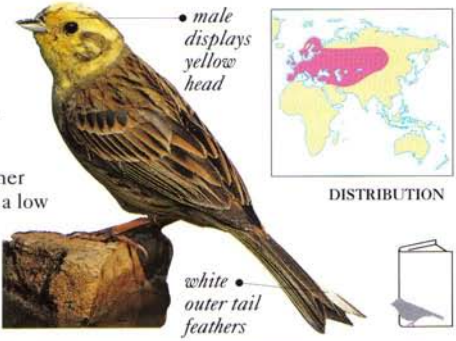
This familiar bunting of hedgerows and farmland is identified by the yellow head and monotonous song phrase of the male. The diet consists mainly of insects and seeds, most of which are taken from the ground.

• **NEST** A neat cup nest of grass, lined with finer materials, and placed in the base of a hedge, in a low bush, or on the ground.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Most of Europe, and parts of N.W. Africa and C. Asia.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Partial migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE
Species *Emberiza flaviventris*
Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

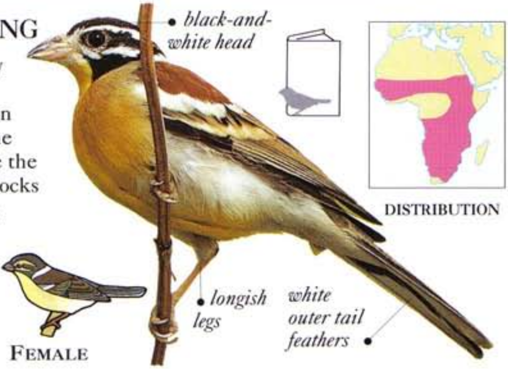
GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING

A brightly colored bunting of open-country habitat, this species is recognized by its deeply undulating flight and a habit, when alighting, of flicking its tail. It feeds on the ground, taking seeds and insects. Outside the breeding season, it joins mixed feeding flocks composed of other buntings and canaries.

• **NEST** A shallow cup nest made of grass and roots, lined with fine rootlets, and placed close to the ground in a low bush or tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Open-country areas of Africa south of the Sahara.

FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Non-migrant

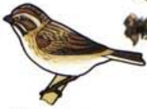
Family EMBERIZIDAE
Species *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Length 6 in (15 cm)

REED BUNTING

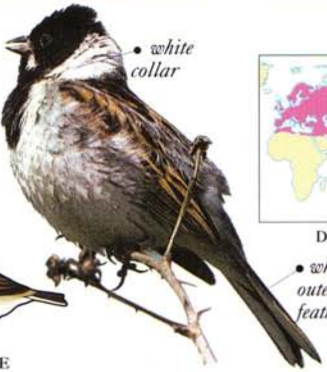
In spring, males of this species perch on the tops of reeds or bushes, uttering their three-note song. In winter, Reed Buntings join flocks of seed-eating birds on farmland. They feed on the ground, taking seeds and insects.

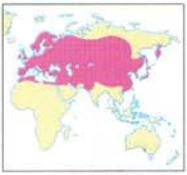
• **NEST** A cup nest made of grasses, placed in vegetation on the ground or in a bush, usually close by water.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Eurasia from W. Europe to Japan. Migrant populations winter in S. Europe, N. Africa, Middle East, N. China, and N. Japan.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

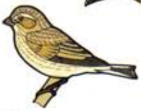
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Partial migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Calcarius ornatus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

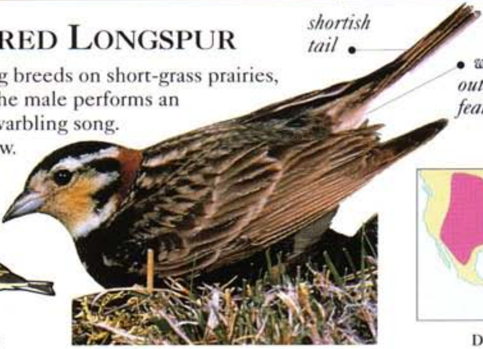
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

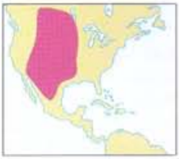
This shy, inconspicuous bunting breeds on short-grass prairies, feeding on seeds and insects. The male performs an attractive display flight, with a warbling song.

- **NEST** A grassy cup in a hollow.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in C. North America. Winters in S. USA and Mexico.
- **REMARK** The "spur" refers to its long hind claw, an adaptation to ground-dwelling.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

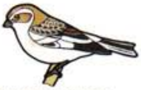
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Plectrophenax nivalis*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

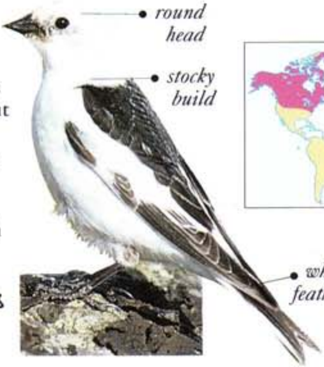
SNOW BUNTING

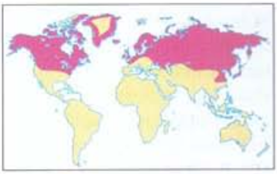
This species breeds on the tundra and in some mountain areas farther south. In winter, large flocks migrate south and out of the mountains, settling on exposed landscapes by the sea. The diet consists of seeds, with insects in summer.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a rock crevice.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in N. North America and Eurasia. Winters farther south.
- **REMARK** Females browner, with less white plumage.



WINTER MALE





DISTRIBUTION

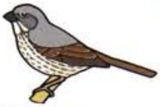
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Passerella iliaca*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

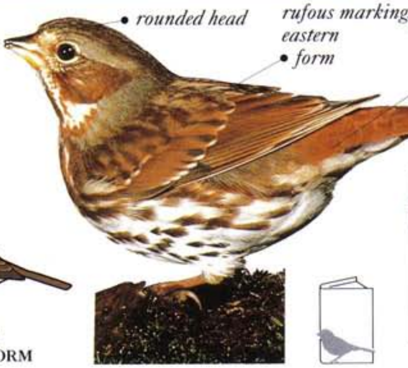
FOX SPARROW

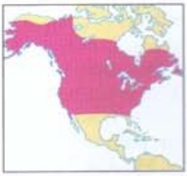
A heavily built bunting with a musical song, this bird feeds in undergrowth on insects and seeds. It sings from an exposed perch, even in winter.

- **NEST** A cup nest, in a thicket, on the ground or in a shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada and W. USA. Winters from S.W. Canada to S. USA.



TYPICAL WESTERN FORM





DISTRIBUTION

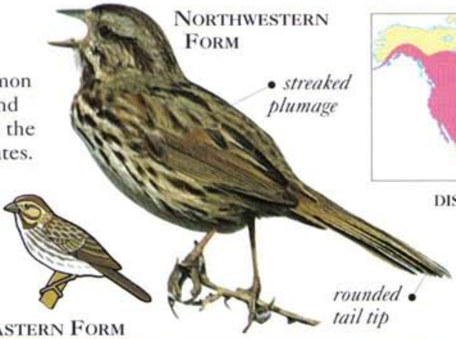
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

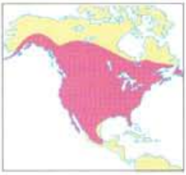
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Melospiza melodia*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

SONG SPARROW

Identifiable by the loud, musical phrases of its song, this bird is common in open country with bushy cover and in thickets near streams. It feeds on the ground, taking seeds and invertebrates.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass and stems, on the ground in a thicket, often near a stream.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America from the Arctic Circle to Mexico. Some populations migrate south in winter.


NORTHWESTERN FORM
streaked plumage
rounded tail tip
EASTERN FORM


DISTRIBUTION

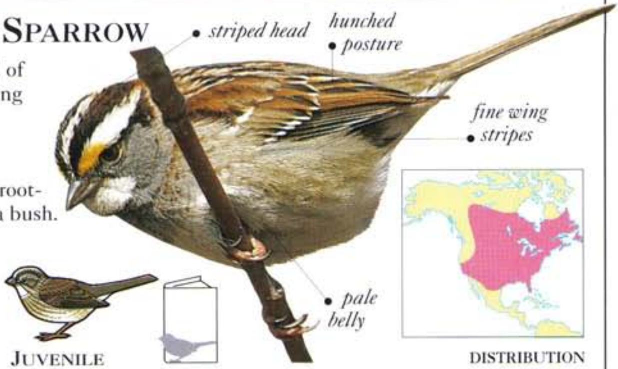
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Zonotrichia albicollis*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Normally a ground-feeding bird of woodland and undergrowth, eating seeds and insects, this species also visits gardens. Its whistled song is heard in all seasons.

- **NEST** A cup nest, lined with rootlets, placed on the ground or in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada and N.E. USA. Winters in USA and N. Mexico.
- **REMARK** In adult birds, the patch in front of the eye varies from white to yellow.


striped head
hunched posture
fine wing stripes
pale belly
JUVENILE
DISTRIBUTION

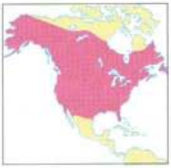
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

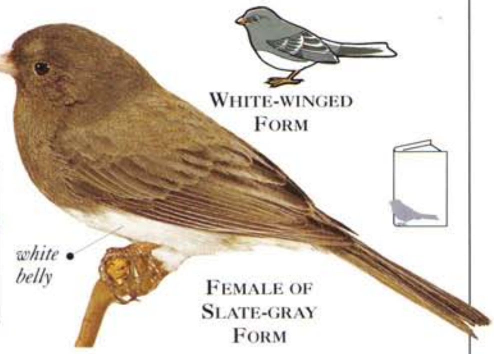
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Junco hyemalis*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

DARK-EYED JUNCO

This ground-feeding bunting scratches for seeds and insects in forest edges and glades. It varies regionally: some forms are brown and others have black heads, but most are gray with a dark head.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grass, in bushy cover.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada, in northerly and mountainous parts of USA, and in N. Mexico. Northern birds migrate south.


DISTRIBUTION


WHITE-WINGED FORM
white belly
FEMALE OF SLATE-GRAY FORM

Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE

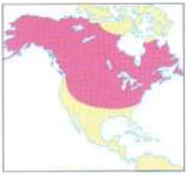
Species *Spizella arborea*

Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

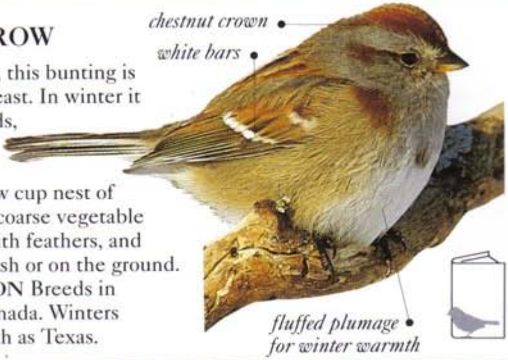
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

A bird of open country with bushy cover, this bunting is identified by the dark spot on its gray breast. In winter it joins mixed flocks of ground-feeding birds, taking seeds and invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest of grasses and other coarse vegetable materials, lined with feathers, and placed in a low bush or on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Alaska and N. Canada. Winters in USA as far south as Texas.



DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

Migration Migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE

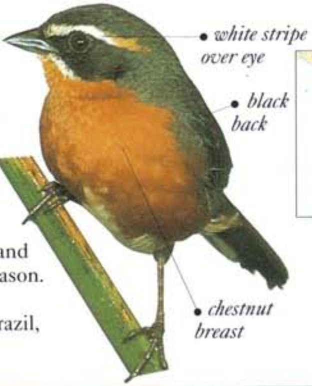
Species *Poospiza nigrorufa*

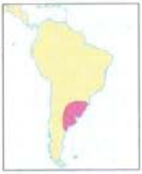
Length 6 in (15 cm)

BLACK-AND-RUFOUS WARBLING FINCH

A small and active seed-eater with a short bill, this species inhabits areas of extensive shrubs, sometimes with scattered trees, and is a common bird in this habitat. It is usually found in pairs, which forage on or near the ground for seeds and insects. Males commonly proclaim their territory by singing from an exposed perch and displaying the chestnut breast in the breeding season.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** River Plate basin in N.E. Brazil, E. Paraguay, Uruguay, and N.E. Argentina.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike

Habitat

Migration Non-migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE

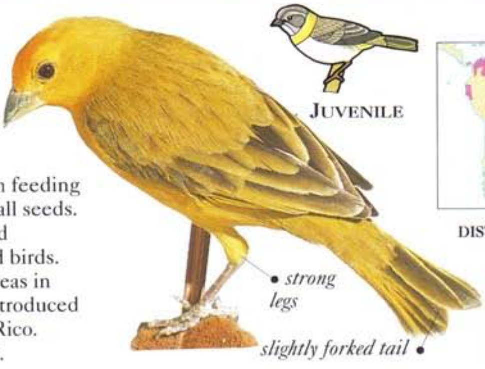
Species *Sicalis flaveola*

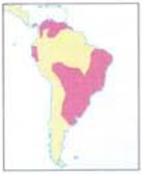
Length 5½ in (14 cm)

SAFFRON FINCH

This scrub and grassland bird is easily identified by the intense yellow plumage of the male, with a darker yellow, almost orange, patch at the front of the crown. Flocks are commonly seen feeding quietly on the ground, taking small seeds.

- **NEST** In cavities or abandoned nests of other scrub and grassland birds.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas in South America. Also Trinidad. Introduced in Panama, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico.
- **REMARK** A popular cage bird.





DISTRIBUTION

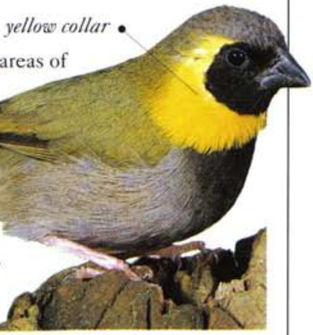
Plumage Sexes differ slightly

Habitat

Migration Non-migrant

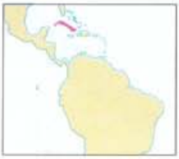
Family EMBERIZIDAE | **Species** *Tiaris canora* | **Length** 4¼ in (11 cm)

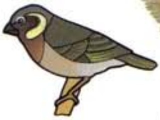
CUBAN GRASSQUIT



This boldly colored little seed-eater inhabits the shrubby edges of areas of open grassland. Flocks are often seen on the ground, feeding on small seeds. The song is soft and pleasant.

- **NEST** A spherical nest made of grass, with a side entrance, situated low in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Cuba. Introduced population in New Providence Island in the Bahamas.


DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ | **Habitat** | **Migration** Non-migrant

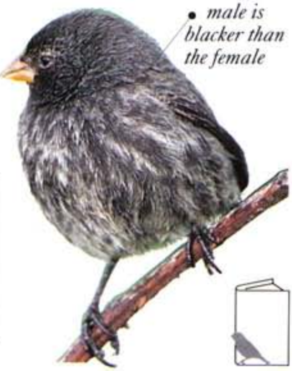
Family EMBERIZIDAE | **Species** *Geospiza fuliginosa* | **Length** 4¼ in (11 cm)

SMALL GROUND-FINCH

Common within its restricted island range, this unobtrusive but lively little finch feeds both on small seeds and insects. It is the smallest of three species of ground-finch. It sometimes forms mixed flocks together with these and other finches.

- **NEST** A loose cup made of twigs, grasses, and pieces of bark, lined with lichen, feathers and cottonheads, located in a bush or cactus.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Galapagos Islands (off the Pacific coast of Ecuador).
- **REMARK** One of 14 Galapagos finch species featured in Charles Darwin's evolutionary studies, with a range of bill shapes adapted to specialized diets.

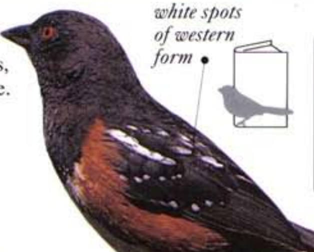
DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes differ slightly | **Habitat** | **Migration** Non-migrant

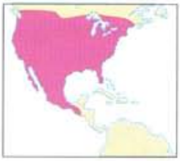
Family EMBERIZIDAE | **Species** *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* | **Length** 8½ in (22 cm)

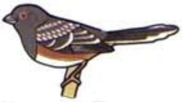
RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE



A seed-eater with a long tail and short legs, this bird is adapted to a terrestrial life-style. It feeds on the ground, usually in or close to cover, taking both seeds and insects.

- **NEST** An open, loosely made cup nest, situated on or close to the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Canada, USA, and much of Mexico. Northern populations winter in the south of this range.
- **REMARK** Plumage, especially that of female birds, varies geographically.


DISTRIBUTION


WESTERN FEMALE

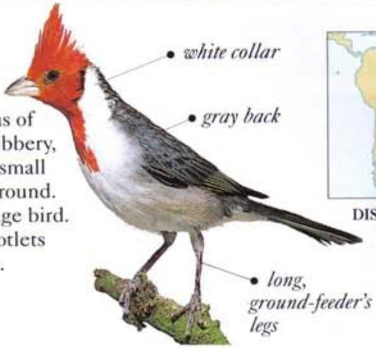
Plumage Sexes differ | **Habitat** | **Migration** Migrant

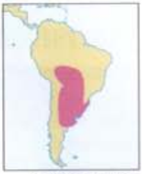
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Paroaria coronata*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

RED-CRESTED CARDINAL

A lively bird with an expressive crest, this species combines strong coloring with a bold, assertive manner. It is common in areas of grassland mixed with scattered trees and shrubbery, often near water. It is usually seen in pairs or small groups, feeding on a variety of seeds on the ground. Its rich, melodious song makes it a popular cage bird.

- **NEST** A neat, cup-shaped nest made of rootlets and grass, placed low in a bush or a small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, S. Brazil, and N. Argentina. Introduced population in Hawaiian Islands.




DISTRIBUTION

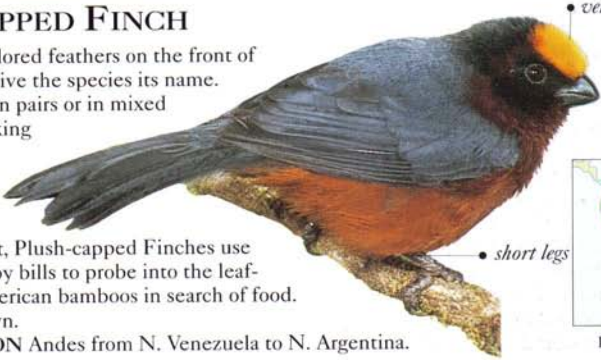
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

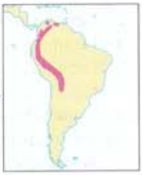
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Catamblyrhynchus diadema*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

PLUSH-CAPPED FINCH

The stiff, gold-colored feathers on the front of this bird's crown give the species its name. It is usually seen in pairs or in mixed feeding flocks, taking insects and some plant material. Feeding in the lower and middle levels of the forest, Plush-capped Finches use their strong, stubby bills to probe into the leaf-tufts of South American bamboos in search of food.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from N. Venezuela to N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

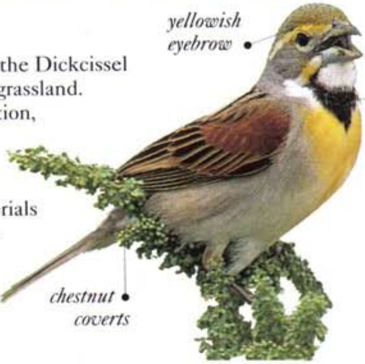
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

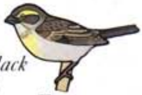
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Spiza americana*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

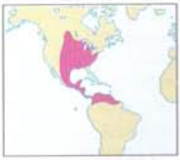
DICKCISSEL

Named after the sound of its song, the Dickcissel is a sparrowlike seed-eater of open grassland. It is gregarious, especially on migration, when enormous flocks are seen. Dickcissels feed on the ground on a variety of seeds and insects.

- **NEST** A bulky cup of plant materials situated in a shrub or a grass clump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in C. Canada and in interior and E. USA. Winters from S. Mexico to N. South America.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

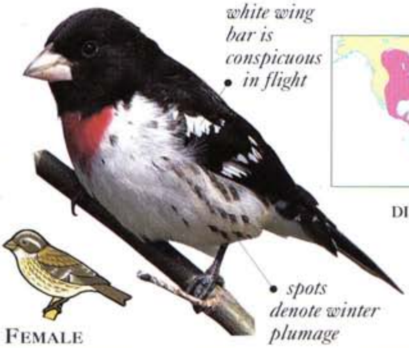
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Pheucticus ludovicianus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

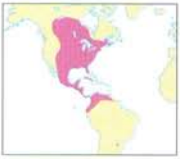
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

A tree dweller with a massive bill and a melodious song, this bird lives in open secondary woodland and shrubbery (regrown after forest clearance), eating insects, fruits, seeds, buds, and blossoms.

• **NEST** A loose cup nest of twigs and grass, with a finer lining, in a tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America east of the Rockies. Winters in Central and South America.


white wing bar is conspicuous in flight
spots denote winter plumage
FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

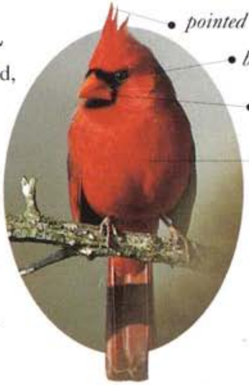
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Cardinalis cardinalis*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

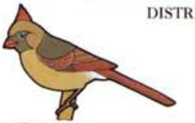
NORTHERN CARDINAL

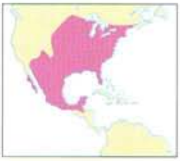
Well known for its vivid colors and loud, musical calls, the Northern Cardinal is a woodland species that has adapted to living in suburban gardens. Throughout its range, it lives in undergrowth, where it searches out its diet of insects, fruit, and seeds. Both sexes sing for much of the year.

• **NEST** A coarse cup nest of leaves and twigs, lined with grapevine bark, placed just above the ground in a bush.

• **DISTRIBUTION** C., E., and S. USA, and Mexico.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

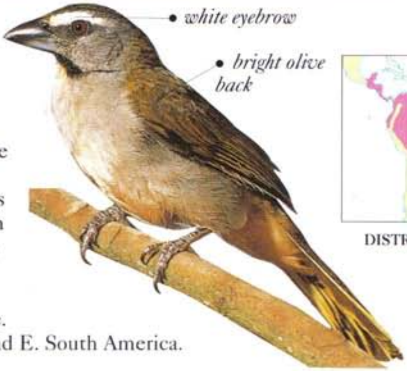
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Saltator maximus*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

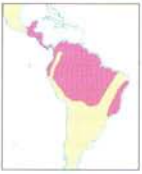
BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR

A large, heavy-billed, tree-dwelling bird, this is a wary species with inconspicuous plumage. It often keeps out of sight in dense cover afforded by the foliage of scrub and forest-edge undergrowth. It is common in its range and is usually encountered singly or in pairs. The diet consists of fruits and insects.

• **NEST** A cup-shaped nest constructed of coarse grasses, twigs, and other plant material, and situated in a bush or small tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Central America, N. and E. South America.




DISTRIBUTION

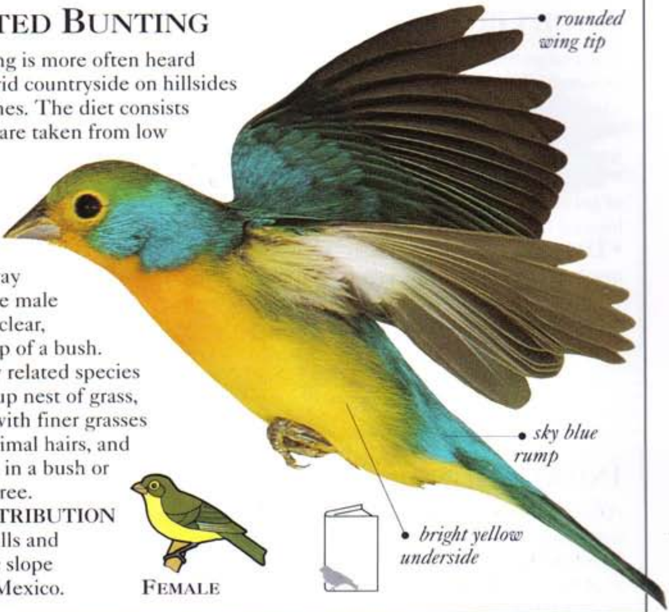
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

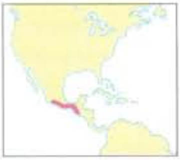
Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Passerina leclancherii*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

ORANGE-BREASTED BUNTING

This colorful but shy bunting is more often heard than seen. It lives in semi-arid countryside on hillsides covered with scrub and bushes. The diet consists of seeds and insects. These are taken from low branches or the foliage of bushes, from the ground underneath vegetation, or from open ground. However, foraging birds rarely move any distance away from the safety of cover. The male sings with a varied series of clear, warbled phrases from the top of a bush.

- **NEST** Unknown. Closely related species are known to make a neat cup nest of grass, lined with finer grasses and animal hairs, and placed in a bush or a low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Foothills and Pacific slope of W. Mexico.




DISTRIBUTION

FEMALE

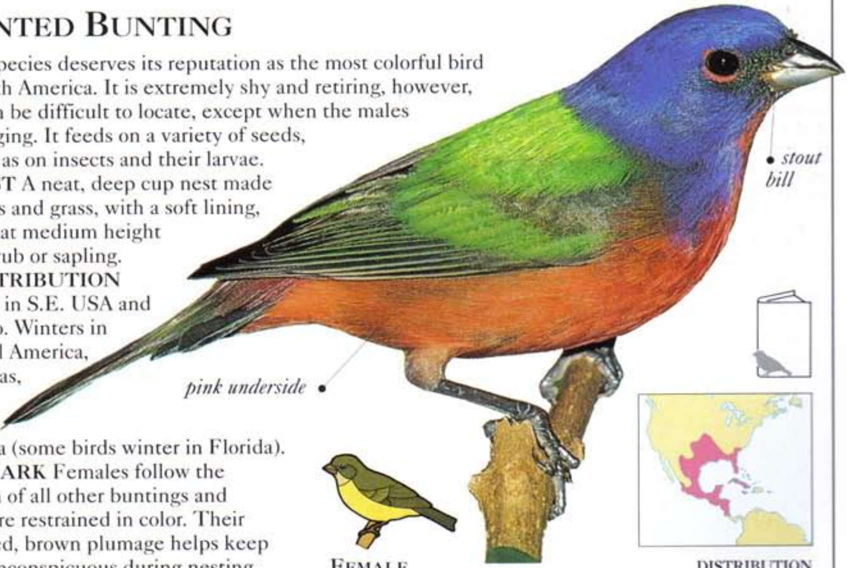
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family EMBERIZIDAE	Species *Passerina ciris*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

PAINTED BUNTING

This species deserves its reputation as the most colorful bird in North America. It is extremely shy and retiring, however, and can be difficult to locate, except when the males are singing. It feeds on a variety of seeds, as well as on insects and their larvae.

- **NEST** A neat, deep cup nest made of twigs and grass, with a soft lining, placed at medium height in a shrub or sapling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.E. USA and Mexico. Winters in Central America, Bahamas, Cuba, and Jamaica (some birds winter in Florida).
- **REMARK** Females follow the pattern of all other buntings and are more restrained in color. Their streaked, brown plumage helps keep them inconspicuous during nesting.



FEMALE

DISTRIBUTION

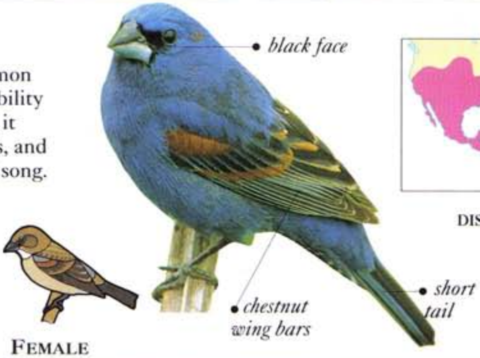
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

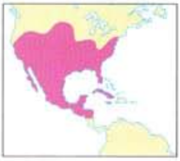
Family EMBERIZIDAE
Species *Guiraca caerulea*
Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

BLUE GROSBEAK

This large-billed bunting is common at forest edges. While it has the ability to crack open the toughest seeds, it also consumes small fruits, insects, and weed seeds. It has a rich, musical song.

- **NEST** A compact cup made of grasses, twigs, and roots, located in a bush or sapling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of USA and N. Mexico. Winters in S. USA, Central America, and Caribbean.





DISTRIBUTION

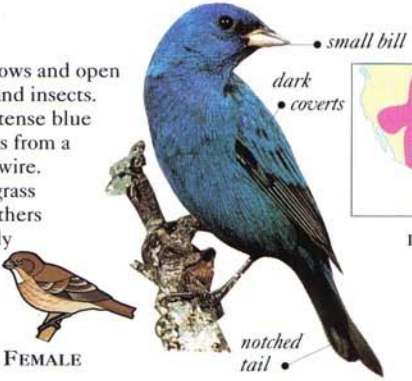
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Migrant

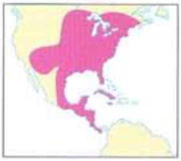
Family EMBERIZIDAE
Species *Passerina cyanea*
Length 5½ in (14 cm)

INDIGO BUNTING

A common summer resident of hedgerows and open woodland, this species feeds on seeds and insects. The breeding male is a magnificent, intense blue bird that sings in repeated pairs of notes from a high perch, often a tree or a telephone wire.

- **NEST** A neat cup nest made of dry grass stems, leaves, and twigs, lined with feathers and fine grasses, placed in a tree or fairly tall bush some way aboveground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.E. Canada and E. USA. Winters from S.E. USA to Caribbean Islands and Central America.





DISTRIBUTION

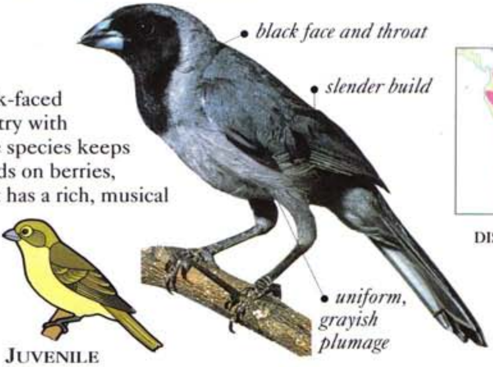
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Migrant

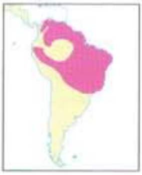
Family THRAUPIDAE
Species *Schistochlamys melanopis*
Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

BLACK-FACED TANAGER

Pairs and family parties of Black-faced Tanagers are seen in open country with scattered bushes and trees. The species keeps to mid-level vegetation and feeds on berries, seeds, ants, and other insects. It has a rich, musical song and is often tame.

- **NEST** An open, cup-shaped nest, made of grass and placed in low vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of N. South America.





DISTRIBUTION

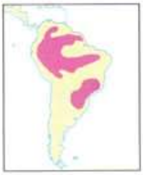
Plumage Sexes alike
Habitat
Migration Non-migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Cissopis leveriana*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

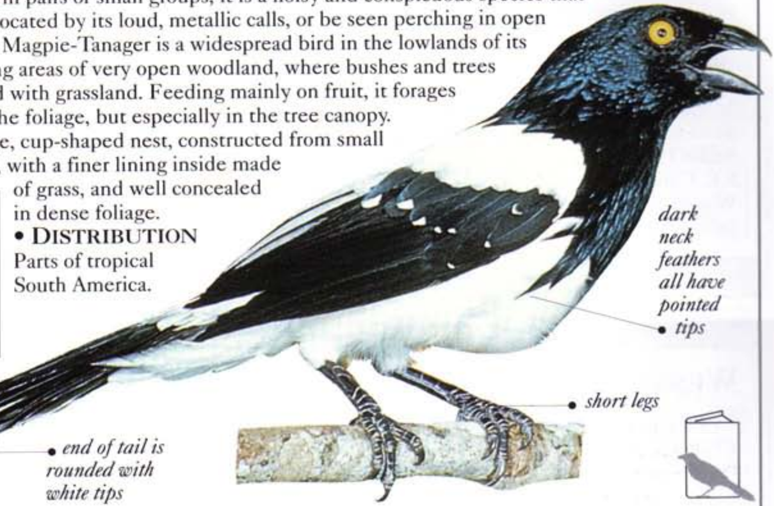
MAGPIE-TANAGER

This bird is easily recognized by its distinctive, black-and-white plumage and long tail. Often in pairs or small groups, it is a noisy and conspicuous species that can usually be located by its loud, metallic calls, or be seen perching in open situations. The Magpie-Tanager is a widespread bird in the lowlands of its range, inhabiting areas of very open woodland, where bushes and trees are interspersed with grassland. Feeding mainly on fruit, it forages at all levels in the foliage, but especially in the tree canopy.

- **NEST** A large, cup-shaped nest, constructed from small twigs and grass, with a finer lining inside made of grass, and well concealed in dense foliage.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of tropical South America.



DISTRIBUTION


dark neck feathers all have pointed tips
short legs
end of tail is rounded with white tips

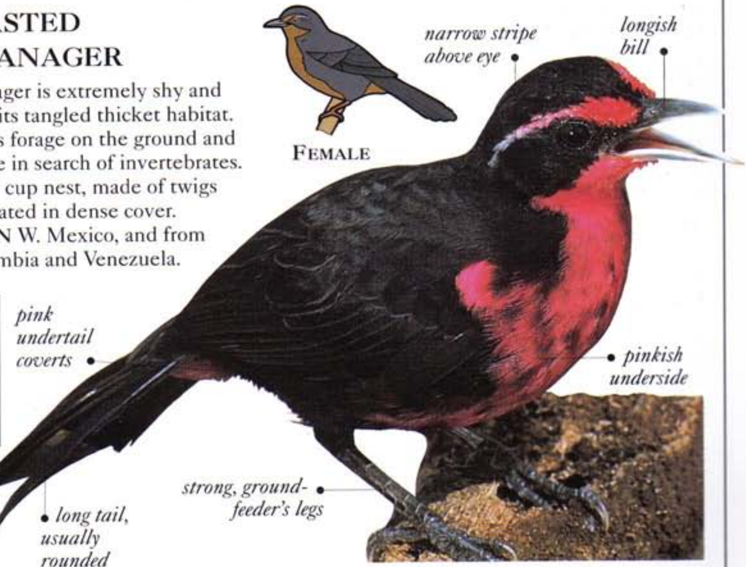
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Rhodinocichla rosea*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

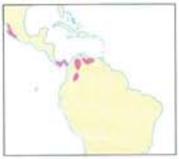
ROSE-BREASTED THRUSH-TANAGER

This beautiful tanager is extremely shy and difficult to view in its tangled thicket habitat. Single birds or pairs forage on the ground and flick leaf litter aside in search of invertebrates.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest, made of twigs and leaves and situated in dense cover.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. Mexico, and from Costa Rica to Colombia and Venezuela.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

narrow stripe above eye
longish bill
pink undertail coverts
pinkish underside
strong, ground-feeder's legs
long tail, usually rounded

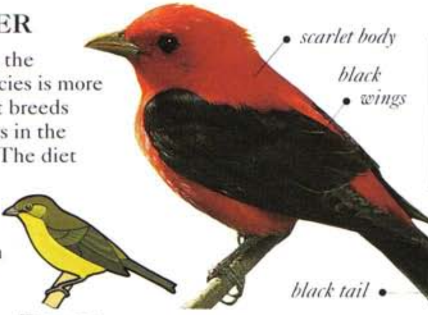
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

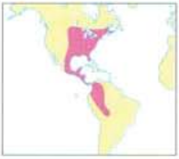
Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Piranga olivacea*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

SCARLET TANAGER

As it lives and feeds mostly in the upper foliage of trees, this species is more likely to be heard than seen. It breeds in deciduous forest and winters in the canopy of lowland rain forest. The diet consists of insects and fruit.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest, lined and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.E. Canada and E. USA. Winters from Panama as far south as Bolivia.


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

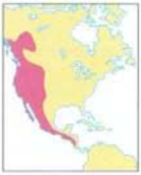
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Piranga ludoviciana*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

WESTERN TANAGER

Yellow wing bars, and a vigorous song, draw attention to this bird. Usually solitary, it forms flocks of up to 30 birds or more on migration. It feeds mostly on insects but in late summer it also takes fruit, such as berries.

- **NEST** A cup nest, lined with grass and placed in a fir or pine, often high above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in mountains of S.W. Canada and W. USA. Winters in Central America.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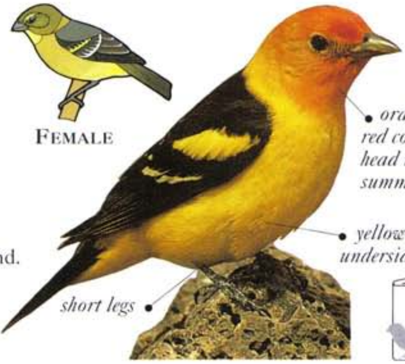

FEMALE

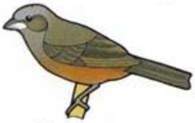
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Migrant

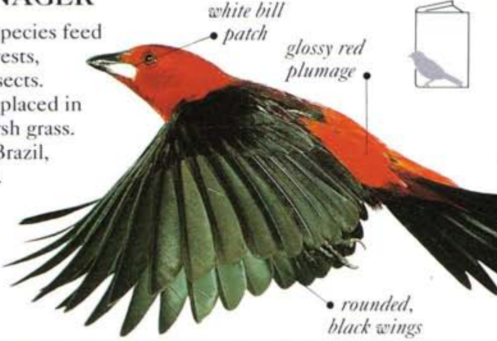
Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Ramphocelus bresilius*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

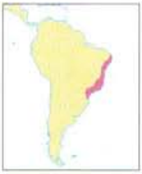
BRAZILIAN TANAGER

Chattering groups of this species feed in the shrubby edges of forests, taking fruits, seeds, and insects.

- **NEST** A grass cup nest, placed in a low tree or hidden in marsh grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Brazil, N.E. Argentina.


FEMALE




DISTRIBUTION

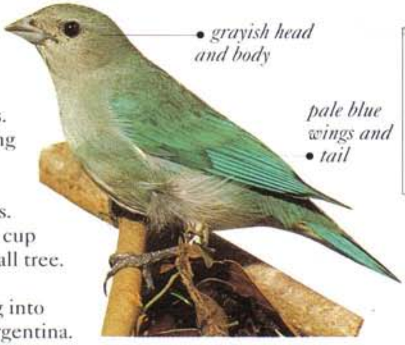
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌳 ▲ ✈	Migration Non-migrant

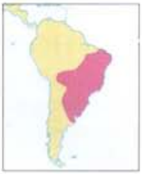
Family THRAUPIDAE | Species *Thraupis sayaca* | Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

SAYACA TANAGER

A bird of scrub and open woodland, this species favors damp areas with thicker vegetation along watercourses. When perched, it has a habit of turning its body from side to side. It feeds chiefly on fruit. The song is a jumbled but melodious series of notes.

- **NEST** A carefully woven, compact cup nest, well hidden in a low bush or small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Brazil south of the Amazon basin, extending into Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and N. Argentina.


grayish head and body
pale blue wings and tail


DISTRIBUTION

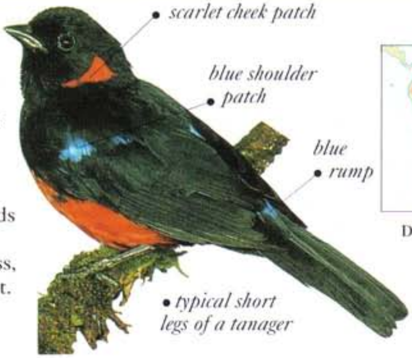
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

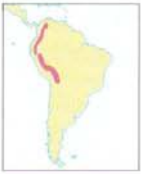
Family THRAUPIDAE | Species *Anisognathus igniventris* | Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

SCARLET-BELLIED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER

Known for its striking pattern and tinkling song, this mountain bird occurs in woodland and scrub on the Andean uplands, extending upward into high-altitude pasture and farmland. Usually occurring in pairs or small groups, it feeds on fruit pulp, seeds, leaves, and buds.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of coarse grass, lined with finer grass, in a tree or thicket.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia.


scarlet cheek patch
blue shoulder patch
blue rump
typical short legs of a tanager


DISTRIBUTION

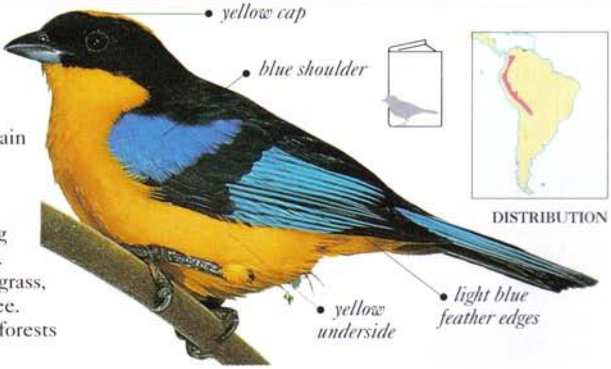
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE | Species *Anisognathus somptuosus* | Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

BLUE-WINGED MOUNTAIN-TANAGER

This species occurs in mountain forests and secondary growth (regrown after clearance). It hops about in the outer branches and foliage, plucking fruit and searching for insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass, probably in a bush or small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andean forests from Venezuela to Bolivia.


yellow cap
blue shoulder
yellow underside
light blue feather edges

DISTRIBUTION

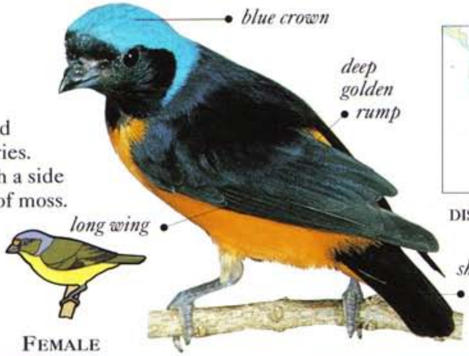
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

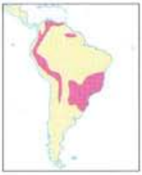
Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Euphonia cyanocephala*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA

This tanager lives high in trees at the forest edge, and in scattered trees in clearings. It feeds on berries.

- **NEST** A domed moss nest with a side entrance, in a tree fork or clump of moss.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes from Venezuela to N.W. Argentina; Guyana Highlands; S.E. Brazil, E. Paraguay, and N.E. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

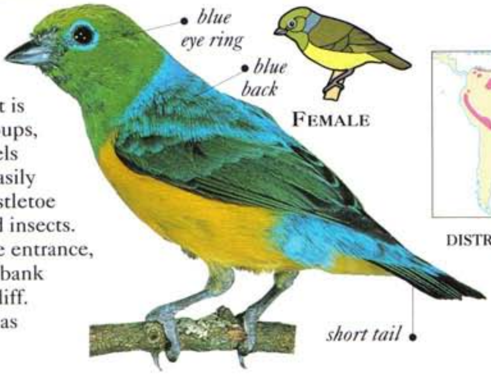
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

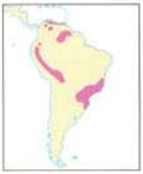
Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Chlorophonia cyanea*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

BLUE-NAPED CHLOROPHONIA

A small, stubby-billed tanager that is encountered in pairs and small groups, this species stays in the upper levels of trees, where it is sluggish and easily overlooked. It feeds mainly on mistletoe berries, also taking other fruits and insects.

- **NEST** A domed nest with a side entrance, made of moss, placed in a vertical bank or in a crevice in an overhanging cliff.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas from Venezuela to N. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

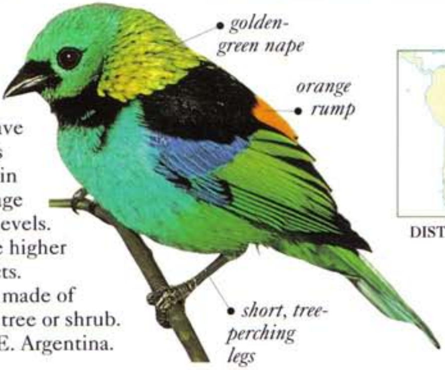
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

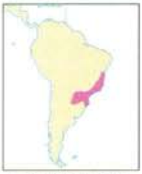
Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Tangara seledon*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

GREEN-HEADED TANAGER

A vivid example of the large *Tangara* genus of highly colored birds which gave the tanagers their name, this species is usually seen in parties. These often join larger flocks of mixed species that forage in woodland and shrubby areas, at all levels. The Green-headed Tanager favors the higher tree canopy, feeding on fruit and insects.

- **NEST** A compact, cup-shaped nest made of grass, hidden in the dense foliage in a tree or shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Brazil to N.E. Argentina.




DISTRIBUTION

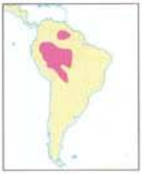
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE | Species *Tangara schrankii* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

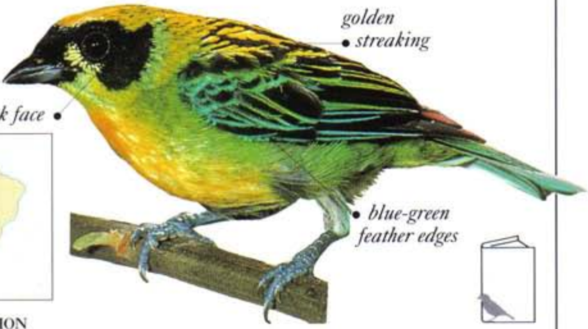
GREEN-AND-GOLD TANAGER

Despite its vivid colors, this bird is well camouflaged, feeding in the upper foliage of trees on insects and fruit.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest in a small palm tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Lowlands of Venezuela, and upper Amazon Basin in Brazil and Bolivia.



DISTRIBUTION


golden streaking
black face
blue-green feather edges

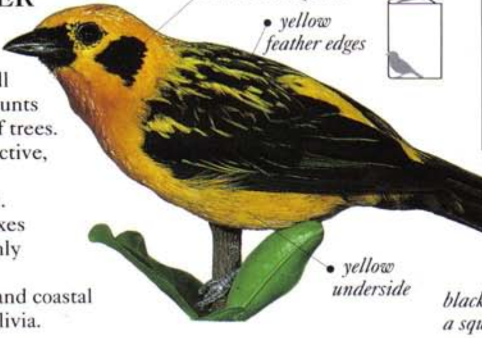
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

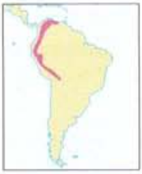
Family THRAUPIDAE | Species *Tangara arthus* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

GOLDEN TANAGER

This beautiful tanager is a fairly common rain forest dweller. Usually seen in small flocks, it feeds on fruit and hunts insects on the mossy limbs of trees. Its courtship display is distinctive, with raised head, drooping wings, and slightly raised tail.

- **NEST** Unknown. Both sexes carry nesting material, but only the female builds the nest.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Andes and coastal ranges from Venezuela to Bolivia.


black cheek patch
yellow feather edges
yellow underside
black tail with a square tip



DISTRIBUTION

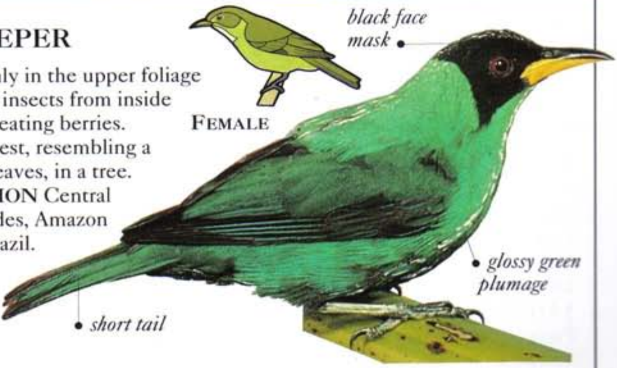
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 🌳 ▲ | Migration Non-migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE | Species *Chlorophanes spiza* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

GREEN HONEYCREEPER

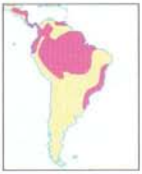
This slender tanager is seen mainly in the upper foliage of forest trees. It takes nectar and insects from inside flowers with its tapering bill, also eating berries.

- **NEST** A shallow, cup-shaped nest, resembling a bunch of dead leaves, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Central America, N. Andes, Amazon Basin, and E. Brazil.



FEMALE

black face mask
glossy green plumage
short tail



DISTRIBUTION

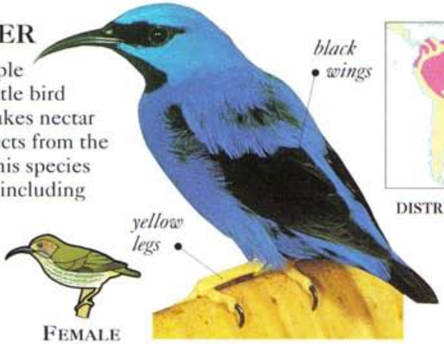
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Cyanerpes caeruleus*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

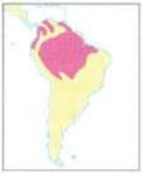
PURPLE HONEYCREEPER

Usually seen singly or in pairs, the Purple Honeycreeper is an active, acrobatic, little bird with a long, curved bill, with which it takes nectar from flowers. It also snatches small insects from the leaves and eats fruit, such as berries. This species frequents a variety of wooded habitats, including gardens and secondary woodland (regrown after forest clearance).

- **NEST** A small cup nest, placed on a stump or at the end of a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Part of Panama and parts of N. South America.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

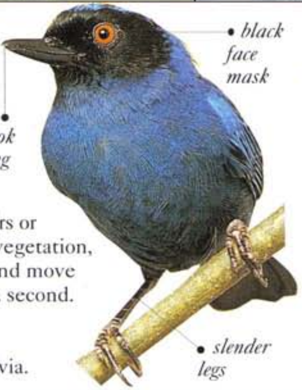
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🏡	Migration Non-migrant

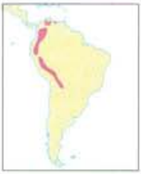
Family THRAUPIDAE	Species *Diglossopis cyanea*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

MASKED FLOWERPIERCER

This nectar-feeding bird pierces the tubular corollas of rain forest flowers with its hooked bill-tip to obtain its food. Other items in the diet are insects and small fruits. It inhabits mountain rain forest, often near the upper altitude limit for trees, and is usually seen in pairs or family groups. These keep mainly to the lower vegetation, sometimes rising to the mid-levels. They feed and move about actively, never staying still for more than a second.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest made of grass and moss, probably located in a bush or small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From N. Venezuela to Bolivia.





DISTRIBUTION

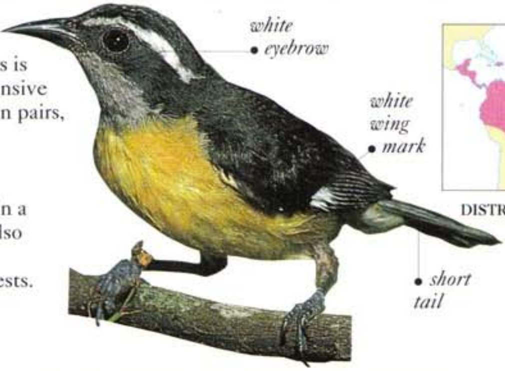
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

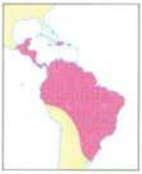
Family COERIBIDAE	Species *Coereba flaveola*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

BANANAQUIT

A tiny, energetic bird, this species is common in many parts of its extensive range. It is usually seen alone or in pairs, feeding in forest or scrub, taking berries, nectar, and insects.

- **NEST** An oval-shaped, grassy ball with a side entrance, placed in a bush or small tree. Bananaquits also build nestlike structures that are known as dummy or dormitory nests.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of West Indies, and from S. Mexico to N.E. Argentina.





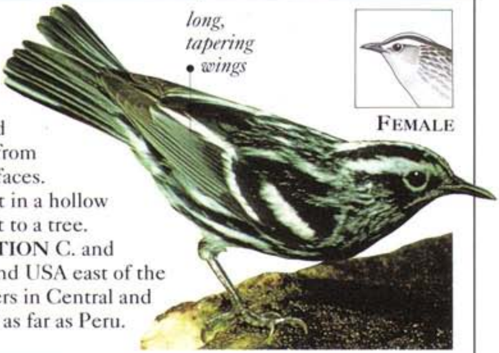
DISTRIBUTION

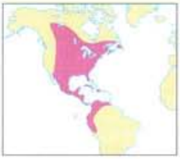
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ✕ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family PARULIDAE	Species *Mniotilta varia*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

This forest and woodland species feeds like a treecreeper (*see p. 324*), moving up trunks and branches, taking insects from crevices or from bark surfaces.




DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A grass cup nest in a hollow on the ground, often next to a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** C. and S.E. Canada, and USA east of the Rockies. Winters in Central and South America as far as Peru.

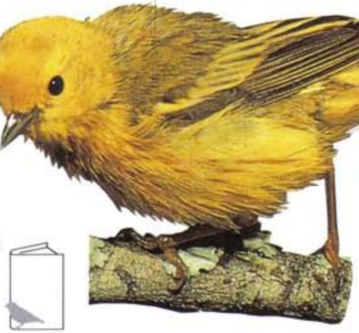
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

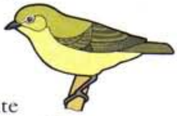
Family PARULIDAE	Species *Dendroica petechia*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

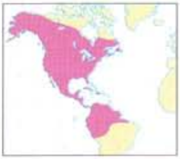
YELLOW WARBLER

This species lives in trees and shrubs, often beside marshes or water. It feeds on insects, which it gleans from the foliage.

- **NEST** A compact cup nest, in a shrub, often close to water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Canada, USA, Central and South America. Some northern populations migrate southward.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

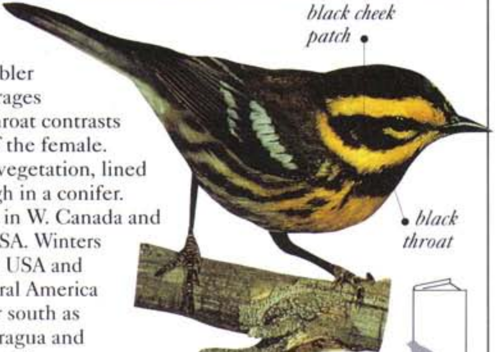
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

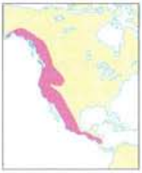
Family PARULIDAE	Species *Dendroica townsendi*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

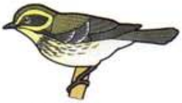
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

A bird of coniferous forests, Townsend's Warbler is usually found high in the trees, where it forages actively for small insects. The male's black throat contrasts noticeably with the streaked, yellow throat of the female.

- **NEST** A cup nest of fine vegetation, lined with finer plant material, high in a conifer.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. Canada and W. USA. Winters in W. USA and Central America as far south as Nicaragua and Costa Rica.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

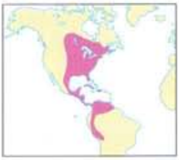
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family PARULIDAE	Species *Dendroica fusca*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

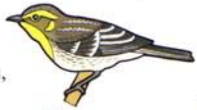
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

This bird is usually seen in the treetops, where it feeds on insects. Breeding habitats range from spruce and fir forests to oak woodland. The wintering habitat is tropical forest.

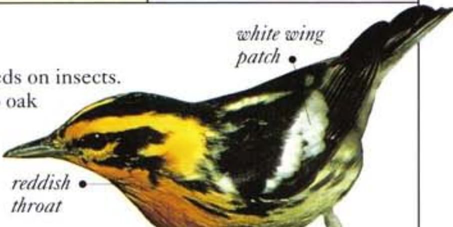
- **NEST** A cup nest of twigs and grasses in a conifer.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in C. and S.E. Canada and E. USA. Winters from Costa Rica as far south as Peru, and in the West Indies.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE



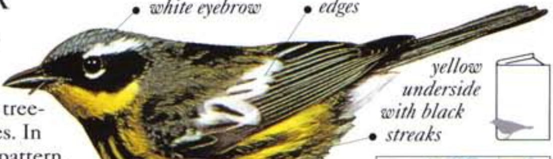
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌲 🌳	Migration Migrant

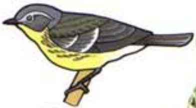
Family PARULIDAE	Species *Dendroica magnolia*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

MAGNOLIA WARBLER

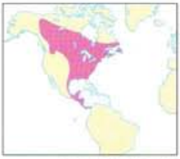
A common bird of moist, coniferous forest, the Magnolia Warbler is recognized by its musical "weety-weety-weeteo" song. It feeds in the treetops, gleaning insects from the leaves. In winter, the male loses its bold head pattern.

- **NEST** A loose, cup-shaped nest of grasses and twigs, placed on a branch in a small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada and N.E. USA. Winters in Central America as far as Panama.





FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

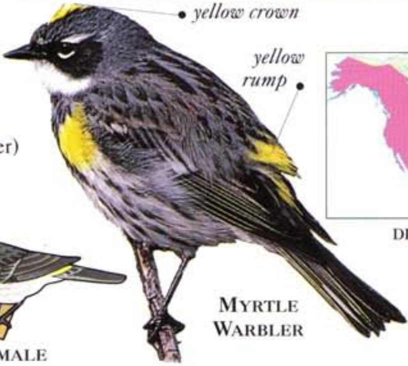
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family PARULIDAE	Species *Dendroica coronata*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

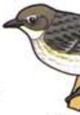
YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

This bird inhabits northern forests, coniferous as well as mixed, feeding on insects. The eastern form (Myrtle Warbler) has a white throat and the western form (Audubon's Warbler) has a yellow throat.

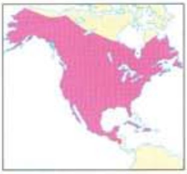
- **NEST** A lined cup nest of grass and small twigs, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North and Central America. Winters in W. and S. USA, West Indies, and Central America.



MYRTLE WARBLER



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

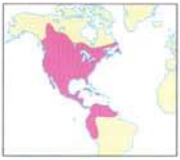
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 🌲	Migration Migrant

Family PARULIDAE	Species *Setophaga ruticilla*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

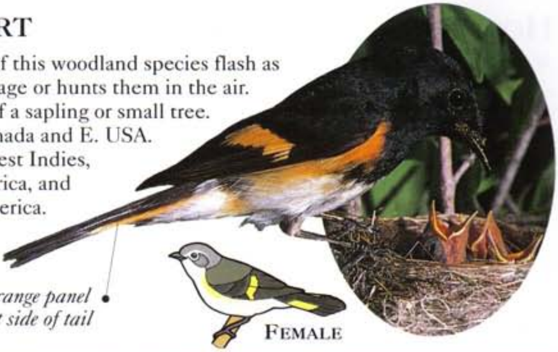
AMERICAN REDSTART

The bright wing and tail patches of this woodland species flash as it darts after insects among the foliage or hunts them in the air.

- **NEST** A bulky cup in the fork of a sapling or small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in Canada and E. USA. Winters in West Indies, Central America, and N. South America.



DISTRIBUTION



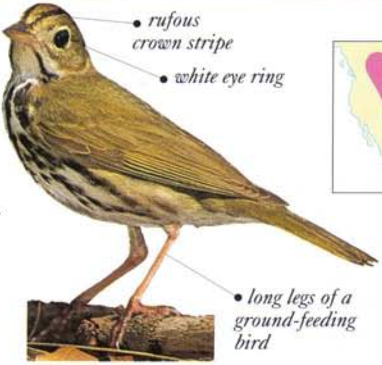
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Migrant

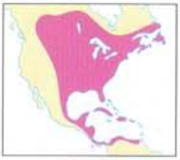
Family PARULIDAE	Species *Seiurus aurocapillus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

OVENBIRD

A dull, soberly colored bird of thick undergrowth in woodland regions, the Ovenbird walks on the ground, searching the leaf litter for small invertebrates. It is common and is not a shy bird, often sufficiently curious to approach people quite closely.

- **NEST** A domed structure of leaves, dry grasses, and weed stems, lined with tiny rootlets, and placed on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds S. Canada and E. USA. Winters in Florida, West Indies, and south to N.W. South America.





DISTRIBUTION

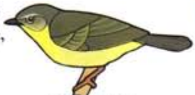
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Migrant

Family PARULIDAE	Species *Geothlypis trichas*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

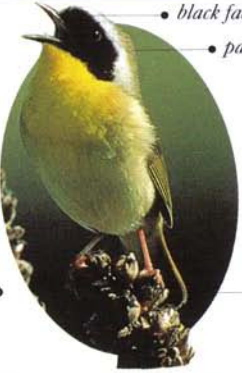
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

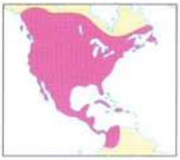
Typically a bird of reeds and tall grasses, the Yellowthroat often moves with its tail tilted upwards, like that of a wren. It also inhabits thickets, shrubs, and marsh vegetation. The diet consists of small insects.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest of grass and bark fragments, lined with finer material, and placed on or near the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada, much of USA, and Mexico. Winters in S. USA, Central America, Colombia, and Venezuela.



FEMALE





DISTRIBUTION

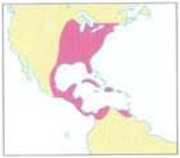
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ✢ ▲ ≋	Migration Migrant

Family PARULIDAE	Species *Wilsonia citrina*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

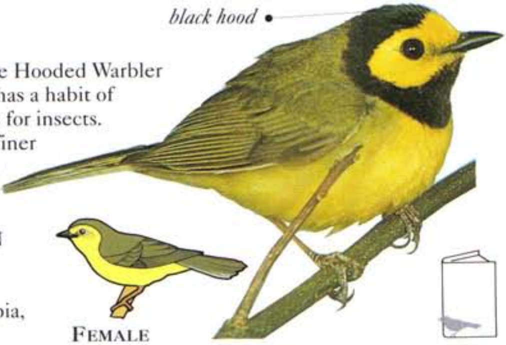
HOODED WARBLER

A bird of swampy woodland and scrub, the Hooded Warbler usually stays hidden in low vegetation. It has a habit of flicking open its tail feathers as it searches for insects.

- **NEST** A grass and leaf cup, lined with finer grass, and hidden in thick vegetation on the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in E. USA. Winters in Central America, N. Colombia, and N. Venezuela.



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

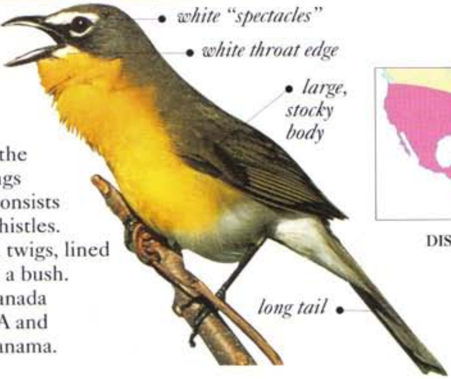
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

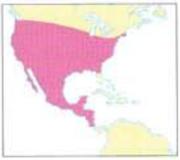
Family PARULIDAE	Species *Icteria virens*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

This is a common fruit- and insect-eating bird of bushes, thickets, and scrub. It is rarely seen except when the male performs a display flight, or sings from a prominent perch. The song consists of chattering, rattling sounds, and whistles.

- **NEST** A bulky cup of grasses and twigs, lined with finer grasses, and placed low in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada and much of USA. Winters in S. USA and in Central America as far south as Panama.





DISTRIBUTION

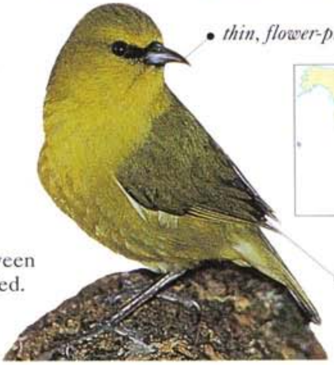
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family DREPANINIDAE	Species *Viridonia virens*	Length 4½ in (11 cm)

COMMON AMAKIHI

Being adaptable to a range of different types of forest environment, this is the commonest of the green honeycreepers found on the Hawaiian Islands. It is most often found in drier parts of the forest. It feeds on nectar from the flowers of trees, as well as insects. It has a complex, trilling song, delivered very softly, and a variety of thin, buzzing call notes. The male plumage varies slightly between islands, while that of the females is more varied.

- **NEST** A small, cup-shaped nest, situated in a tree fern or small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Hawaiian Islands.



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

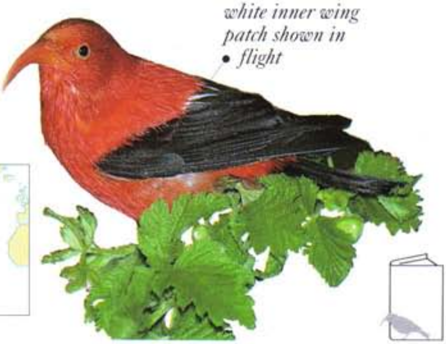
Family DREPANINIDAE	Species *Vestiaria coccinea*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

IIWI

This distinctive honeycreeper has red body plumage, black wings and tail, and a red bill that curves sharply downward. A nectar-feeding specialist, it is usually found high in flowering trees, although it keeps well hidden among the foliage. The Iiwi is slow and deliberate in its actions.

- **NEST** An open, loosely made cup, in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Hawaiian Islands.

DISTRIBUTION



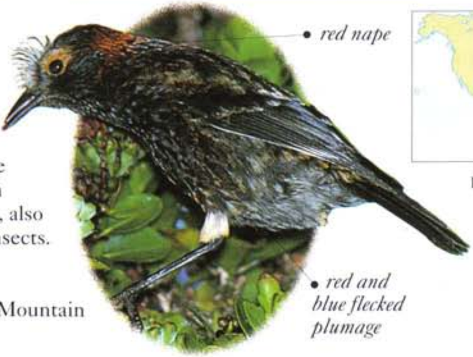
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family DREPANINIDAE	Species *Palmeria dolei*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

CRESTED HONEYCREEPER

Also known as Akohekohe, this species is found only in one mountain locality and is endangered. It is bold and active in behavior, feeding on nectar in the tops of tall flowers and trees, also taking caterpillars and mature insects. Its calls include a loud whistle.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Haleakala Mountain on Maui, Hawaiian Islands.



DISTRIBUTION

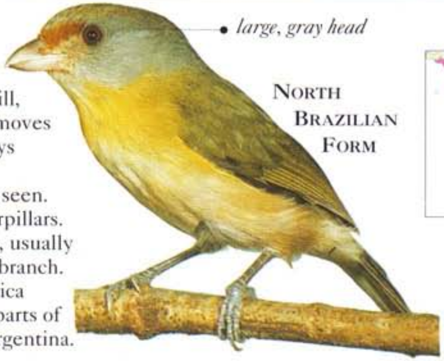
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

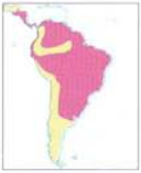
Family VIREONIDAE	Species *Cyclarhis gujanensis*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

RUFOUS-BROWED PEPPERSHRIKE

A bull-headed bird with a heavy bill, the Rufous-browed Peppershrike moves about sluggishly in the trees. Always keeping to the thicker parts of the foliage, it is more often heard than seen. Its diet consists of insects and caterpillars.

- **NEST** A thin-walled, grassy cup, usually suspended from the fork of a high branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Central America from S.E. Mexico to Panama, and parts of South America as far south as C. Argentina.



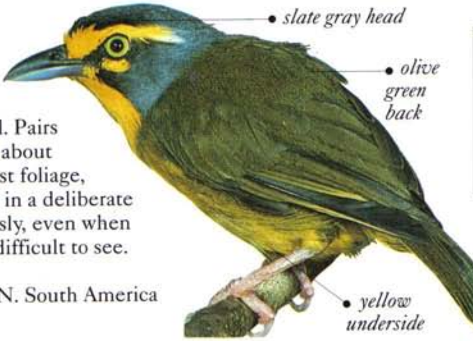


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ✶	Migration Non-migrant

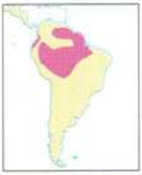
Family VIREONIDAE	Species *Vireolanius leucotis*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

SLATY-CAPPED SHRIKE-VIREO



This is a heavily built forest bird with a robust, hooked bill. Pairs or small groups of birds move about in the upper levels of the forest foliage, searching for their insect prey in a deliberate manner. They sing continuously, even when foraging but are exceedingly difficult to see.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of N. South America as far south as N. Bolivia.

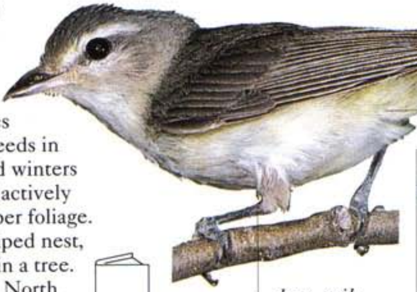


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

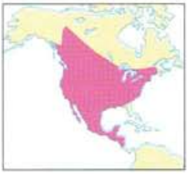
Family VIREONIDAE	Species *Vireo gilvus*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

WARBLING VIREO


slender build
short, agile legs of a tree-feeding bird

The name of this bird refers to its melodious song which consists of long, undulating phrases unlike the short phrases of other vireos. The species breeds in open, deciduous woodland, and winters in tropical rain forest. It gleans actively for insects in the middle to upper foliage.

- **NEST** A basketlike, cup-shaped nest, suspended from a forked twig in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America to Mexico. Winters in Central America as far south as Nicaragua.

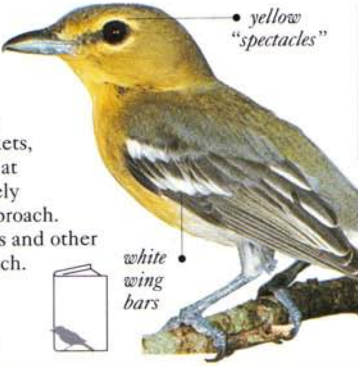


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

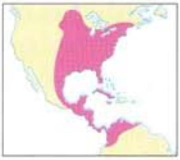
Family VIREONIDAE	Species *Vireo flavifrons*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO



A large vireo with bright yellow eye patches and throat, this species is common in woodland edges and thickets, where it searches carefully for insects at mid-height in the foliage. It is relatively tame and will allow an observer to approach.

- **NEST** An intricate cup nest of grass and other vegetable materials, hung from a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.E. Canada and E. USA. Winters in C. America and N. South America.



DISTRIBUTION

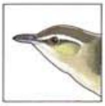
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌳 🌳	Migration Migrant

Family VIREONIDAE | Species *Vireo olivaceus* | Length 6 in (15 cm)

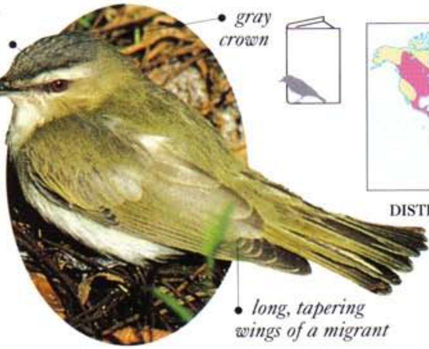
RED-EYED VIREO

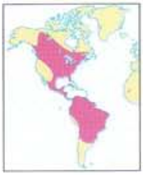
This woodland bird is usually hidden in the high treetops but can be detected by its song when breeding. It feeds mainly on insects, taking berries in autumn and winter.

- **NEST** A cup of grasses, bark strips, and lichens, slung below a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Canada and USA. Winters as far south as N. Argentina and Uruguay.



JUVENILE





DISTRIBUTION

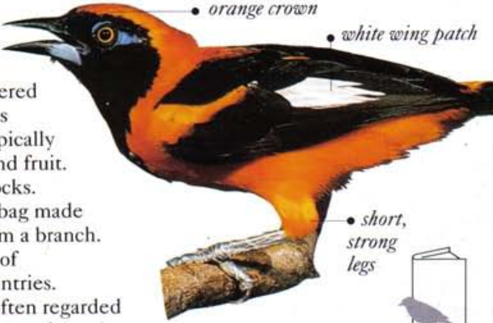
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Migrant

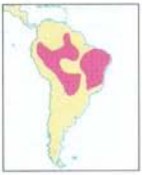
Family ICTERIDAE | Species *Icterus jamaicaii* | Length 8½ in (22 cm)

CAMPO ORIOLE

A slender, boldly marked bird, this species lives in forest, woodland, and scattered trees. Pairs forage at various heights in the trees, but typically low down, taking insects and fruit. They do not join mixed flocks.

- **NEST** A loosely woven bag made of plant fibers, hanging from a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Brazil and surrounding countries.
- **REMARK** This bird is often regarded as a race of the Troupial (*Icterus icterus*).





DISTRIBUTION

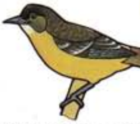
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family ICTERIDAE | Species *Icterus galbula* | Length 8½ in (22 cm)

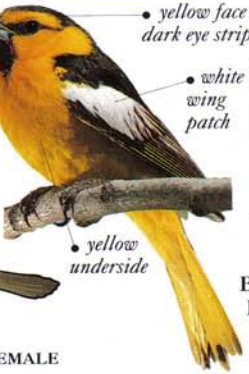
NORTHERN ORIOLE

This bird lives in tall trees in forests and open woodland, hunting insects and also taking berries and other fruits.

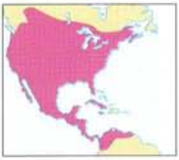
- **NEST** A deep, purse-shaped nest made of long plant fibers, slung from the tip of a branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada, much of USA, and Mexico. Winters in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, and Jamaica.
- **REMARK** Forms breeding in Western and Eastern USA are known as Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles, respectively.



BALTIMORE FEMALE



BULLOCK'S MALE



DISTRIBUTION

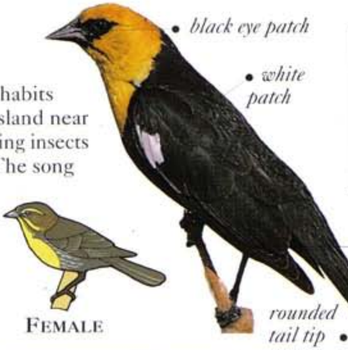
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

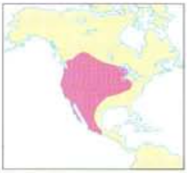
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Usually seen in flocks, this species inhabits freshwater marshes, reedbeds, or grassland near lake shores. It feeds on the ground, taking insects and seeds and is not shy of humans. The song is a series of low, rasping sounds.

- **NEST** A woven cup nest in a reedbed. Built in loosely spaced colonies.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.W. Canada and much of USA. Winters in S.W. USA and W. Mexico.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

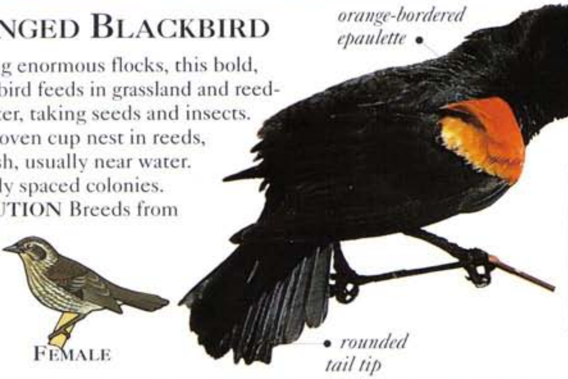
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ≋ ѱ≈ ⏤	Migration Migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Agelaius phoeniceus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

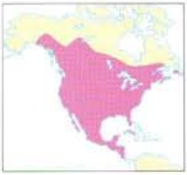
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

Often forming enormous flocks, this bold, venturesome bird feeds in grassland and reedbeds near water, taking seeds and insects.

- **NEST** A woven cup nest in reeds, grass, or a bush, usually near water. Built in loosely spaced colonies.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds from Alaska to the Caribbean. Winters from S.W. Canada to the Caribbean.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

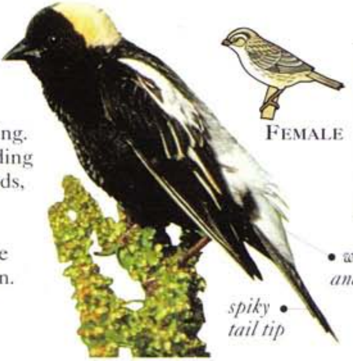
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ⏤ ѱ≈	Migration Partial migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

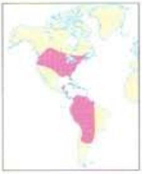
BOBOLINK

This species takes its name from the male's bubbling song, consisting of distinctive "ink" notes, uttered as it flies in flocks over meadows and grasslands in spring. The Bobolink is a bird of grassy areas, feeding mainly on the ground and taking weed seeds, grain, and insects and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest constructed loosely of grasses and rootlets, placed at the foot of a tussock in dense, grassy vegetation.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada and adjoining areas of USA. Winters in South America as far south as Argentina.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat ⏤ ▲	Migration Migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Psarocolius bifasciatus*	L. 20 in (50 cm)/16 in (40 cm)

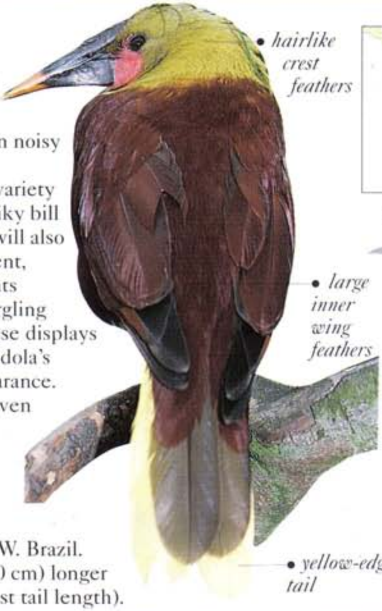
OLIVE OROPENDOLA

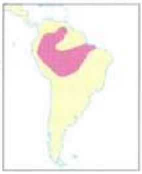
This large, tropical member of the New World blackbird family lives in closed rain forest, at the edges of the forest, and in scattered clearings. It lives in noisy colonies in the high tree canopy, where it remains almost all the time, feeding on a variety of fruits. These it plucks with its large, spiky bill swallowing them whole. On occasions, it will also take insects. Birds in a colony utter frequent, loud calls, and males perform display flights round the trees uttering a loud, liquid, gurgling song. Their wings beat audibly during these displays as well as other flights. The Olive Oropendola's flight is always heavy and clumsy in appearance.

• **NEST** A long, stocking-shaped bag, woven from grasses and other plant materials, hanging from the tip of a branch in a tall tree. Nesting colonies may occupy a single tree or several adjacent ones.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Amazon Basin from Colombia and the Guianas to Bolivia and W. Brazil.

• **REMARK** Males are on average 4 in (10 cm) longer than females in whole body length (not just tail length).





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

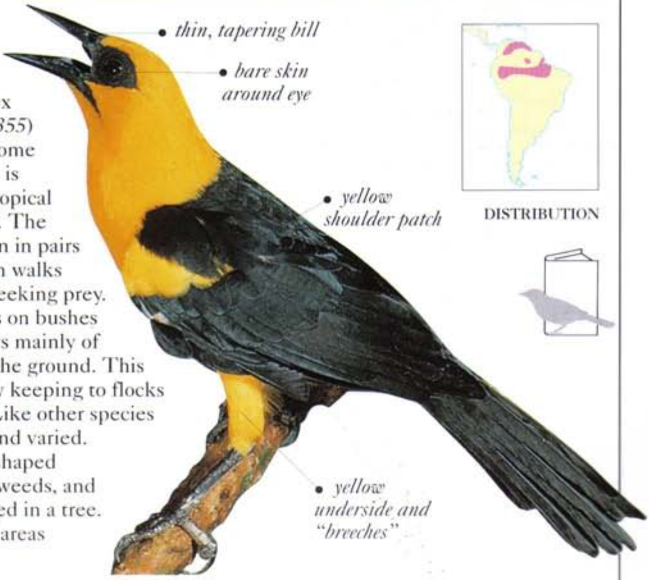
Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Gymnomystax mexicanus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

ORIOLE BLACKBIRD

This species has a less complex pattern than the orioles (*see p. 355*) to which its name refers, and some of which it partly resembles. It is found in gardens, fields, and tropical grassland, often close by water. The Oriole Blackbird is usually seen in pairs or small, loose flocks, and often walks conspicuously on the ground seeking prey. It sometimes rests and perches on bushes and low trees. The diet consists mainly of insects, which are taken from the ground. This is a fairly common bird, usually keeping to flocks consisting of its own species. Like other species in its family, its calls are loud and varied.

• **NEST** A thick-walled, cup-shaped nest, constructed out of grass, weeds, and other plant materials, and placed in a tree.

• **DISTRIBUTION** Lowland areas in N. and C. South America.

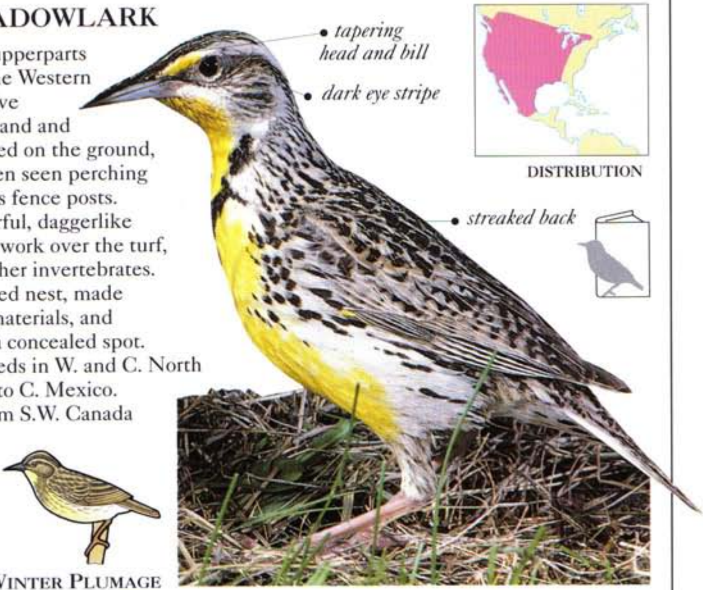

• *thin, tapering bill*
• *bare skin around eye*
• *yellow shoulder patch*
• *yellow underside and "breeches"*

DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Sturnella neglecta*	Length 9½ in (24 cm)

WESTERN MEADOWLARK


tapering head and bill
dark eye stripe
streaked back

DISTRIBUTION

With its streaky, brown upperparts and yellow underparts, the Western Meadowlark is a distinctive and familiar bird of grassland and farmland. Small flocks feed on the ground, while single birds are often seen perching on vantage points, such as fence posts. Meadowlarks have powerful, daggerlike beaks, which they use to work over the turf, picking up insects and other invertebrates.

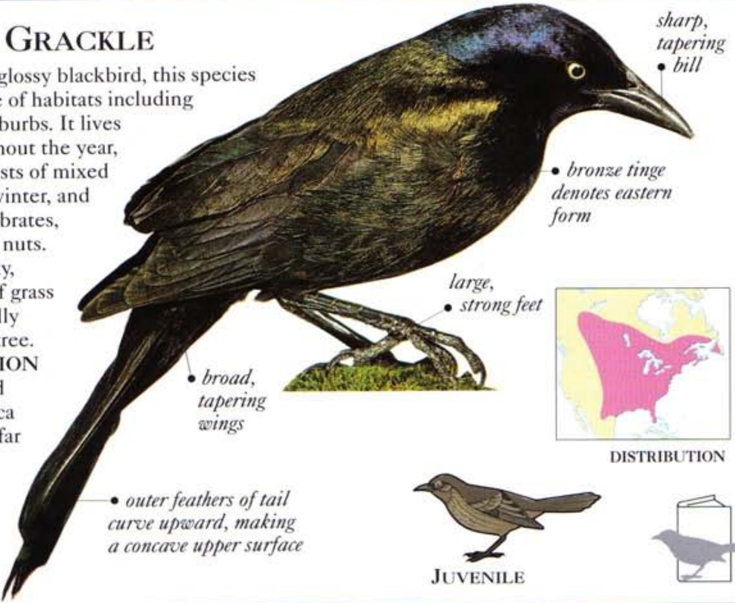
- **NEST** A partially domed nest, made of grass and other plant materials, and placed on the ground in a concealed spot.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in W. and C. North America from S. Canada to C. Mexico. Winter range extends from S.W. Canada to C. Mexico.
- **REMARK** The bubbling, fluty song contrasts with the whistling of the Eastern Meadowlark, which is similar in appearance.

WINTER PLUMAGE

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Quiscalus quiscula*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

COMMON GRACKLE


sharp, tapering bill
bronze tinge denotes eastern form
large, strong feet
broad, tapering wings
outer feathers of tail curve upward, making a concave upper surface

A conspicuous, glossy blackbird, this species occurs in a range of habitats including farmland and suburbs. It lives in flocks throughout the year, joining huge roosts of mixed bird species in winter, and feeds on invertebrates, seeds, fruit, and nuts.

- **NEST** A bulky, loose cup nest of grass and stems, usually placed low in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in C. and E. North America from Alberta as far south as Texas and Florida. Winters within the southern half of this range.

DISTRIBUTION

JUVENILE

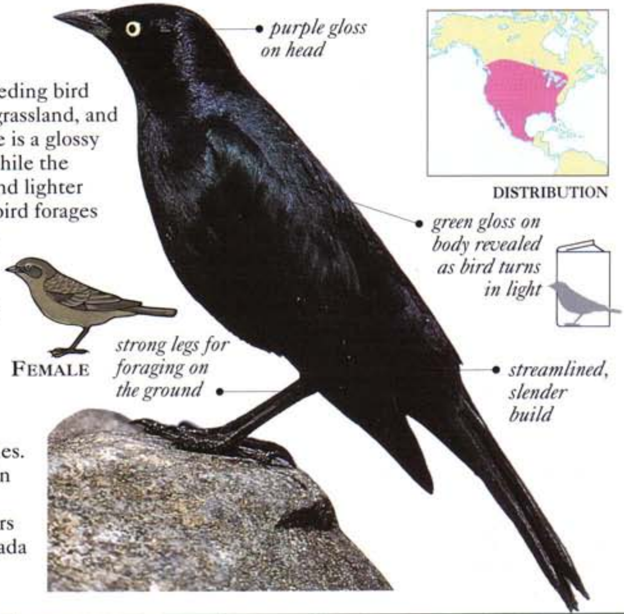
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Euphagus cyanocephalus*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

This is a common, ground-feeding bird of farmland, roadsides, open grassland, and other open habitats. The male is a glossy blackbird with yellow eyes, while the female is dark brown above and lighter brown below. Brewer's Blackbird forages on the ground in large flocks, often in the company of other, similar species. Its diet consists of seeds, insects, and other invertebrates.

- **NEST** A cup-shaped nest made of twigs, lined with grass, and placed on the ground or in a bush or tree. Nests are built in loose colonies.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S. Canada west of the Great Lakes, and in W. USA. Winters in N. America from S.W. Canada to Florida and C. Mexico.


purple gloss on head
DISTRIBUTION
green gloss on body revealed as bird turns in light
FEMALE
strong legs for foraging on the ground
streamlined, slender build

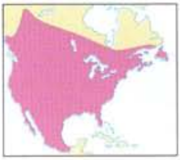
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

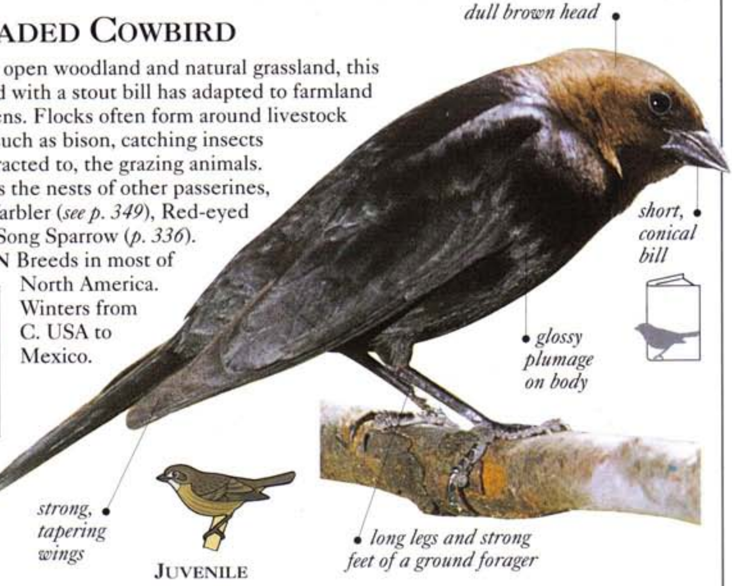
Family ICTERIDAE	Species *Molothrus ater*	Length 7½ in (19 cm)

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

Originally living in open woodland and natural grassland, this ground-feeding bird with a stout bill has adapted to farmland and suburban gardens. Flocks often form around livestock or wild herbivores such as bison, catching insects disturbed by, or attracted to, the grazing animals.

- **NEST** Parasitizes the nests of other passerines, including Yellow Warbler (*see p. 349*), Red-eyed Vireo (*p. 355*), and Song Sparrow (*p. 336*).
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in most of North America. Winters from C. USA to Mexico.


DISTRIBUTION


dull brown head
short, conical bill
glossy plumage on body
tail is relatively short, with a blunt tip
strong, tapering wings
JUVENILE
long legs and strong feet of a ground forager

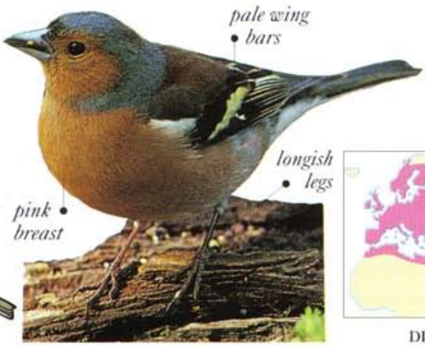
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

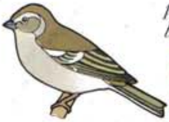
Family FRINGILLIDAE | Species *Fringilla coelebs* | Length 6 in (15 cm)

CHAFFINCH

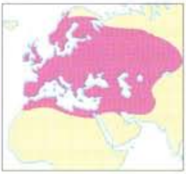
A woodland bird that has adapted to gardens, the Chaffinch feeds on the ground, often forming flocks in winter, taking seeds, fruit, and insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest of moss, in the fork of a tree or shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, N. Africa, Middle East, Siberia. Some populations winter in N. Africa and India.





FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

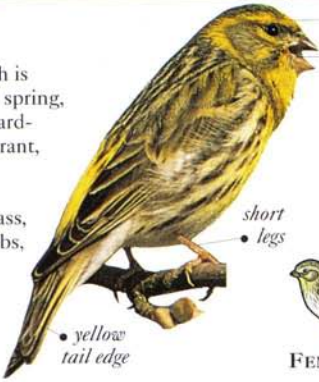
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

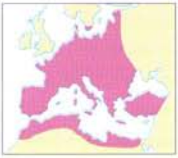
Family FRINGILLIDAE | Species *Serinus serinus* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

EUROPEAN SERIN

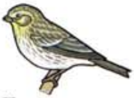
This streaked, green-and-yellow finch is inconspicuous for most of the year. In spring, however, the male performs a downward-spiralling display flight with an exuberant, fizzing song. European Serins forage for small seeds on the ground.

- **NEST** A small cup nest made of grass, roots, and moss, bound with spiderwebs, lined with hair and vegetable down, and placed in a tree or shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of continental Europe, Mediterranean islands, N. Africa, and Turkey.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

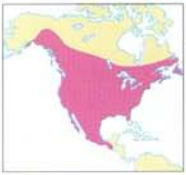
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Migrant

Family FRINGILLIDAE | Species *Carduelis pinus* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

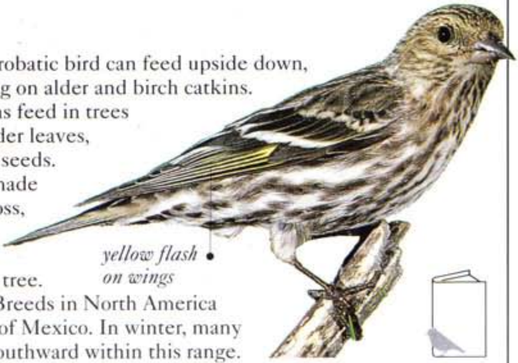
PINE SISKIN

A finch of coniferous forests, this active, acrobatic bird can feed upside down, extracting seeds from cones and also feeding on alder and birch catkins. Flocks of up to several hundred Pine Siskins feed in trees and on herbaceous plants, taking buds, tender leaves, and insects, as well as seeds.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of grass, twigs, and moss, lined with down, fur, and feathers, and placed in a coniferous tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in North America and in the mountains of Mexico. In winter, many populations migrate southward within this range.



DISTRIBUTION



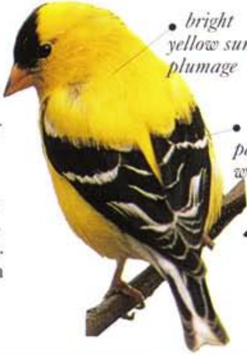
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Partial migrant

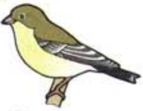
Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Carduelis tristis*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

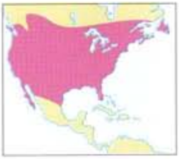
The dashing, black-and-yellow breeding plumage of the male is replaced in winter by drab brown. American Goldfinches form large flocks in winter. Their diet consists of weed seeds, insects, and buds.

- **NEST** An open cup nest of bark, grass, and plant stems, placed in a fork of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S. Canada and much of USA. Northern populations migrate south as far as N. Mexico in winter.


bright yellow summer plumage
white pattern on wings



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

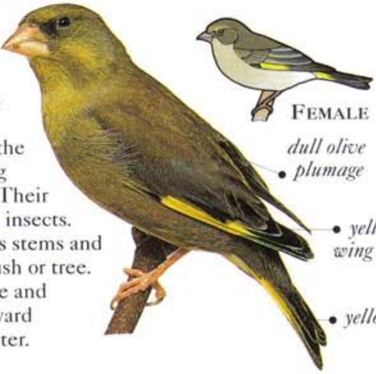
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

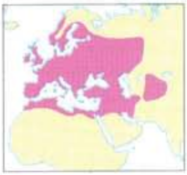
Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Carduelis chloris*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH

This bird is often seen in gardens and farmland. Males perform a butterflylike display flight above the trees in spring. Their musical song alternates with long, harsh notes. Their diet consists of seeds, berries, and insects.

- **NEST** A bulky cup nest of grass stems and other plant materials, sited in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe and N. Africa to W. Asia. Some southward migration within this range in winter.


FEMALE
dull olive plumage
yellow wing bar
yellow tail edge



DISTRIBUTION

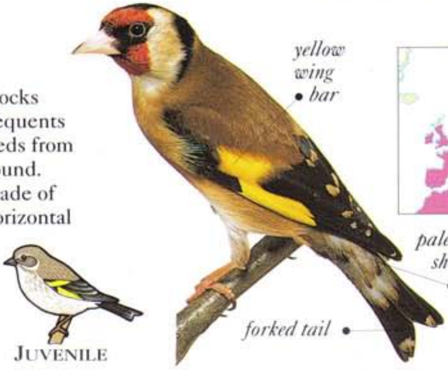
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

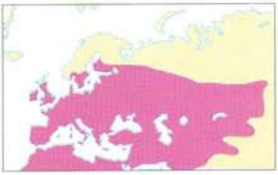
Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Carduelis carduelis*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

EURASIAN GOLDFINCH

A colorful finch that flocks in autumn, this bird frequents open spaces, taking seeds from thistle heads or the ground.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of plant materials, on a horizontal tree branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Europe, N. Africa, Middle East, and across C. Asia.


JUVENILE
yellow wing bar
pale rump shows in flight
forked tail



DISTRIBUTION

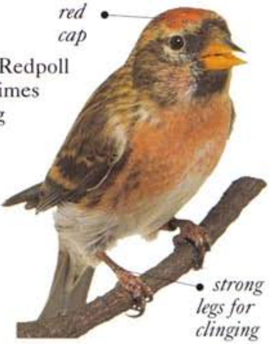
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

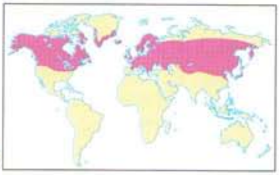
Family Fringillidae	Species *Carduelis flammea*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

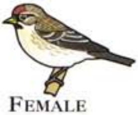
Common Redpoll

A tree-dwelling finch, the Common Redpoll feeds among twigs and leaves, sometimes upside down, and sometimes clinging to catkins of silver birch. The diet consists mainly of seeds and insects.

- **Nest** A cup nest of twigs and grasses, lined with finer materials, placed in a bush or tree.
- **Distribution** Breeds in N. Canada and USA, S. Greenland, Iceland, and most of Eurasia. Some southward movement in winter.




DISTRIBUTION


Female

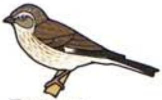
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

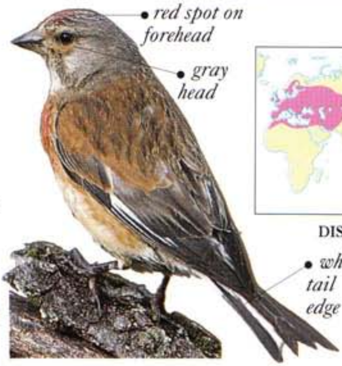
Family Fringillidae	Species *Carduelis cannabina*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

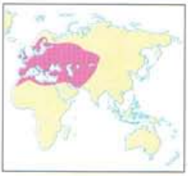
Eurasian Linnet

Renowned for its sweet "twangy" song, this species is a finch of open places, particularly gorse-covered heaths. Linnets become sociable in autumn and form huge, wandering flocks, which often move south. They feed mainly on seeds and sometimes on insects.

- **Nest** A cup nest of grass and moss, lined and placed low in a bush or tree.
- **Distribution** Most of Europe and N. Africa; parts of the Middle East and C. Asia. Some southward movement in winter.


Female




DISTRIBUTION

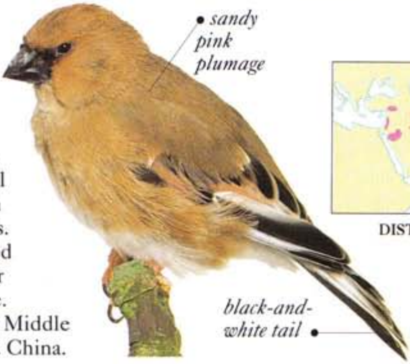
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

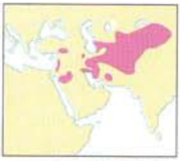
Family Fringillidae	Species *Rhodopechys obsoleta*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

Desert Finch

This bird inhabits steppe (arid grassland) and semidesert, its soft, plain colors merging with the bare landscape. Pink, black, and white markings on wing and tail show in flight. Usually seen in pairs, it is not shy and will allow an observer to approach. It feeds on or near the ground, taking seeds and buds.

- **Nest** A cup-shaped nest made of weed stems, grass, and twigs, lined with wool or feathers, and located in a bush or low tree.
- **Distribution** Isolated areas in the Middle East, Iran, N.W. Pakistan, C. Asia, and W. China.




DISTRIBUTION

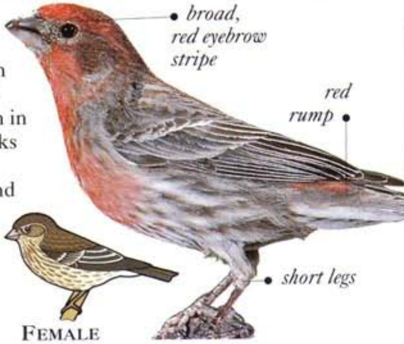
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

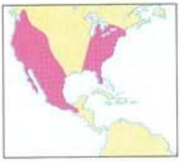
Family FRINGILLIDAE
Species *Carpodacus mexicanus*
Length 6 in (15 cm)

HOUSE FINCH

Having learned to exploit human dwellings as a source of food and nest sites, this species is common in villages and suburbs. Winter flocks feed on seeds and orchard fruit.

- **NEST** A cup nest of grasses and other soft materials, in a bush or on a post or building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.W. Canada to Mexico. Introduced populations in S.E. Canada and E. USA.




DISTRIBUTION

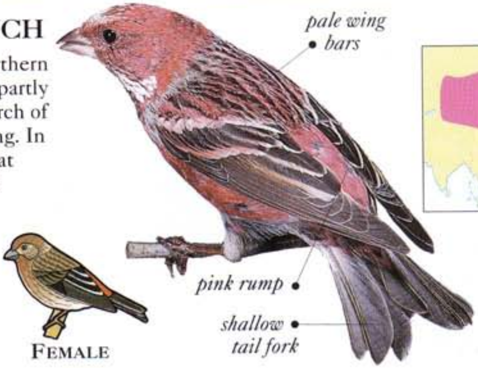
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Non-migrant

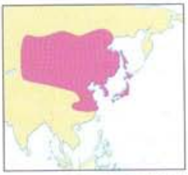
Family FRINGILLIDAE
Species *Carpodacus roseus*
Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

PALLAS' ROSEFINCH

A ground-feeding finch of northern coniferous forests, this bird is partly nomadic, moving about in search of suitable conditions for breeding. In winter it forms small flocks that travel about, feeding on seeds and sometimes on insects.

- **NEST** Unknown.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Siberia and N. Mongolia. Some populations migrate into China, Korea, and Japan.




DISTRIBUTION

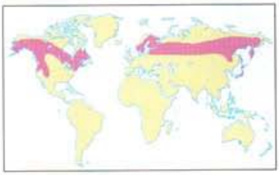
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

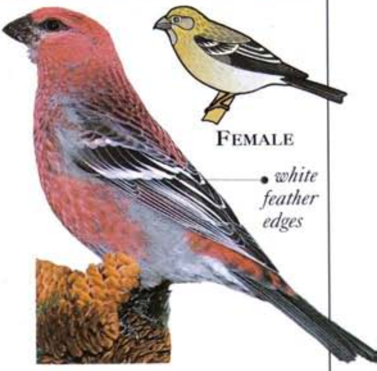
Family FRINGILLIDAE
Species *Pinicola enucleator*
Length 9 in (23 cm)

PINE GROSBEAK

A large finch with two wing bars, this bird has a capacious bill adapted for eating buds. Other foods include seeds, flowers, insects, and berries. It lives in pairs when breeding, and flocks roam about in search of food during the winter.

- **NEST** A cup nest of twigs, moss, and heather, lined and placed high in a conifer.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Northern forest zone of North America, Europe, and Siberia. Some birds move south within this range in winter.


DISTRIBUTION



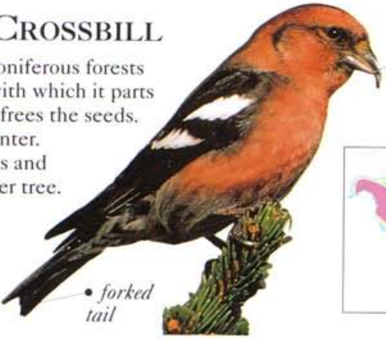
Plumage Sexes differ
Habitat
Migration Partial migrant

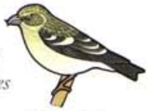
Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Loxia leucoptera*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

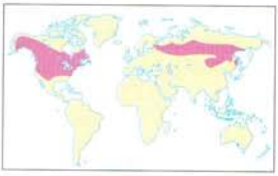
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

This finch of the northern coniferous forests has a bill with crossed tips, with which it parts the scales of larch cones and frees the seeds. It forms roaming flocks in winter.

- **NEST** A cup of grass stems and twigs, placed in a small conifer tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** North America, N. Eurasia, and Hispaniola. Southern limit of winter range varies from year to year.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

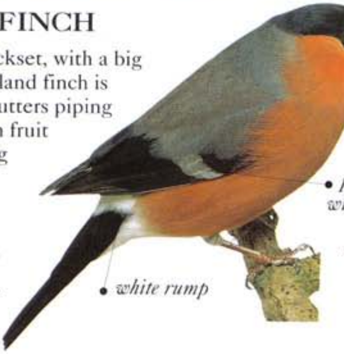
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant/nomadic

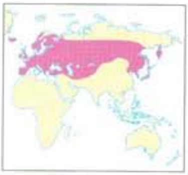
Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

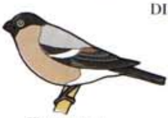
EURASIAN BULLFINCH

Distinctively colored and thickset, with a big head and stout bill, this woodland finch is immediately recognizable. It utters piping call notes. Bullfinches feed on fruit and flower buds, often causing extensive damage by eating the buds of orchard trees.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest of twigs, lined with fine roots, and placed in a thick bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe and a band across C. Asia to the Pacific.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

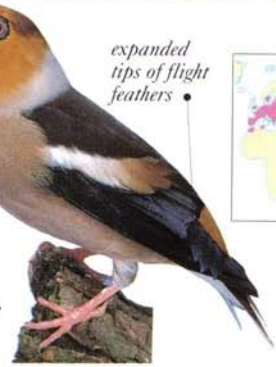
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

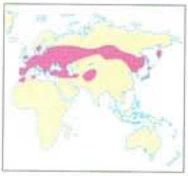
Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

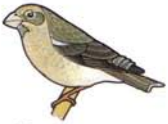
HAWFINCH

A large finch of the forest treetops, this bird has a massive bill, with which it can open cherry pits to extract the kernels. Other foods are seeds, buds, and fruits. Seen in small parties in winter, Hawfinches are secretive birds at all times.

- **NEST** A shallow cup of twigs and plant materials, lined with rootlets, and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe; parts of N.W. Africa, Middle East, C. Asia, S. Siberia, and E. Asia.


expanded tips of flight feathers


DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

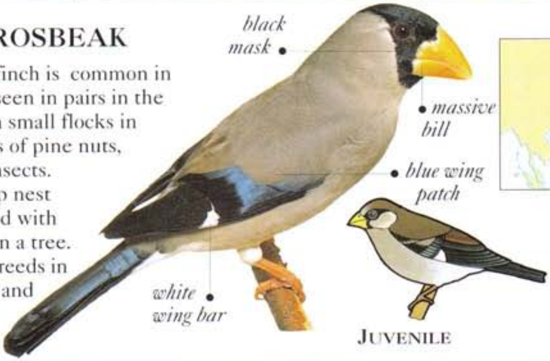
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Eophona personata*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

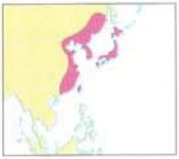
JAPANESE GROSBEAK

This large, migratory finch is common in woodland, where it is seen in pairs in the breeding season and in small flocks in winter. Its diet consists of pine nuts, seeds of berries, and insects.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest made of twigs and lined with finer material, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in S.E. Siberia, N. China, and N. Japan. Winters in S. Japan and C. China.



JUVENILE



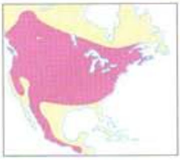
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Migrant

Family FRINGILLIDAE	Species *Hesperiphona vespertina*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

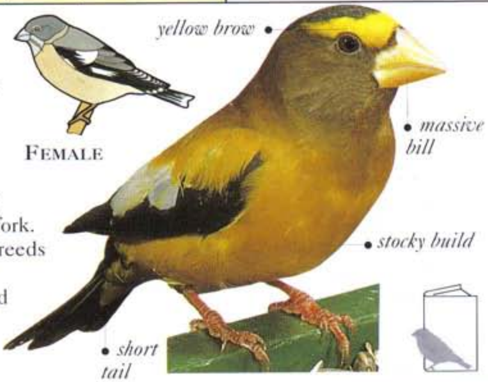
EVENING GROSBEAK

The black-and-yellow plumage of the male, and the white wing patches of both sexes, identify this finch. It is a woodland bird that visits birdfeeders in winter. Its diet ranges from insect larvae to seeds.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A cup nest of twigs, placed in a tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in coniferous zone of S. Canada, W. USA, and south to Mexico. Some birds winter in E. and C. USA.



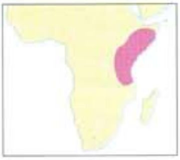
FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*	Length 5½ in (14 cm)

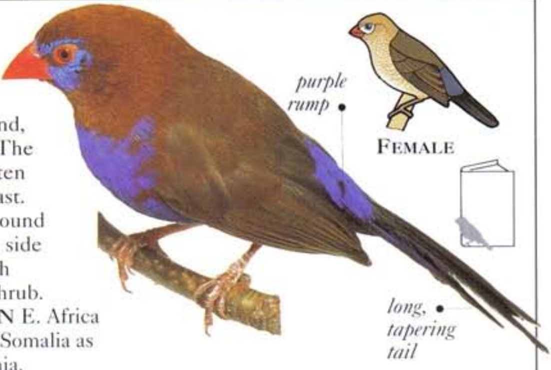
PURPLE GRENADIER

In spite of its gaudy colors, this is a secretive bird, living in arid, tropical scrubland. Small flocks feed on the ground, close to cover, taking seeds and insects. The birds utter quiet, indistinct call notes, often heard as they fly past.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A loose, round nest of grass with a side entrance, lined with feathers, low in a shrub.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Africa from Ethiopia and Somalia as far south as Tanzania.



FEMALE

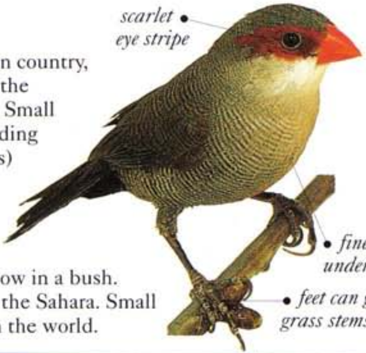
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌿 ⛰	Migration Non-migrant

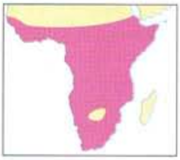
Family ESTRILDIDAE | Species *Estrilda astrild* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

COMMON WAXBILL

Typically a bird of long grass in open country, sometimes near water, this is one of the commonest species of African finch. Small flocks feed on the ground or on standing grass, taking seeds (mainly of grasses) and sometimes small insects.

- **NEST** An oval structure with a tubular side entrance, made of grass and lined with soft feathers or grass flowers, in a grass clump or low in a bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara. Small populations introduced elsewhere in the world.





DISTRIBUTION

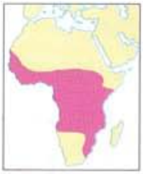
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE | Species *Amandava subflava* | Length 4 in (9 cm)

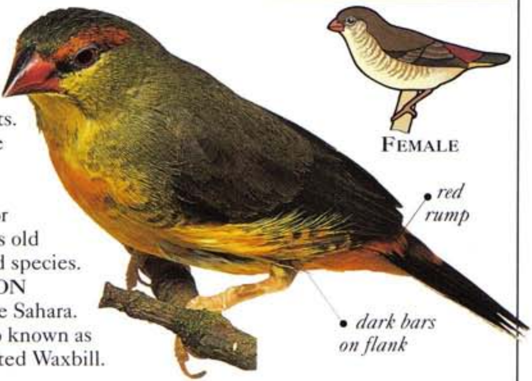
ZEBRA WAXBILL

The red rump of this grassland finch is conspicuous as it feeds among grass stems, taking seeds, insects, and soft shoots. Flocks often visit water to drink and bathe in the early afternoon.

- **NEST** An oval nest of grass, at ground level or slightly above. Often uses old nests of other bird species.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** Also known as the Orange-breasted Waxbill.



DISTRIBUTION



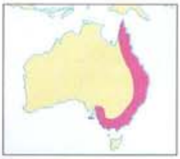
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE | Species *Neochmia temporalis* | Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

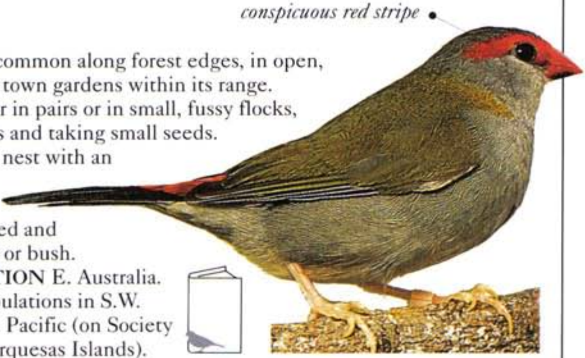
RED-BROWED FINCH

This bird has a bouncy flight and is common along forest edges, in open, grassy areas with shrubs, and even in town gardens within its range. The Red-browed Finch is seen either in pairs or in small, fussy flocks, feeding among grasses and low plants and taking small seeds.

- **NEST** A horizontal, bottle-shaped nest with an entrance tube, made of grass stems, lined and placed in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Australia. Introduced populations in S.W. Australia and S. Pacific (on Society Islands and Marquesas Islands).



DISTRIBUTION

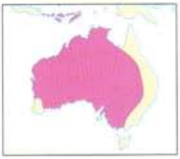


Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Taeniopygia guttata*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

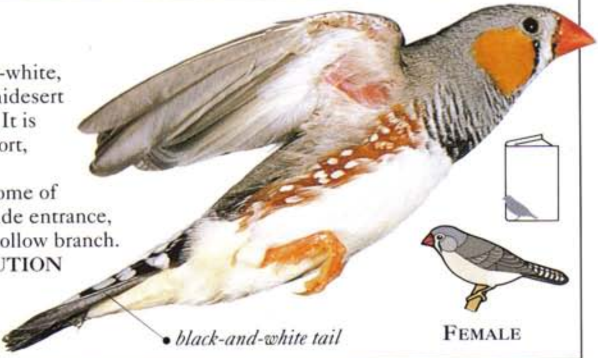
ZEBRA FINCH

So named because of its black-and-white, barred tail, this species lives in semidesert areas near water, feeding on seeds. It is seen in lively flocks which utter short, nasal notes.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A dome of grass with a side entrance, in a bush or hollow branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Indonesia and much of Australia.



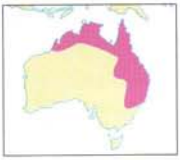
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Taeniopygia bichenovii*	Length 4 in (10 cm)

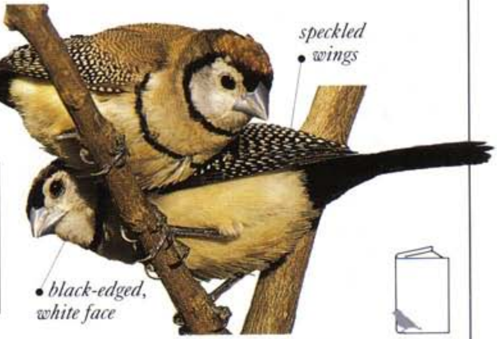
DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH

This brownish gray little finch is identified by two black bands across its breast. Small parties feed in short grass or on bare ground, always close to cover, taking small seeds.

- **NEST** A horizontal, bottle-shaped nest made of dried grass, lined with finer grass, and placed in a small bush or in tall grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. and E. Australia.



DISTRIBUTION



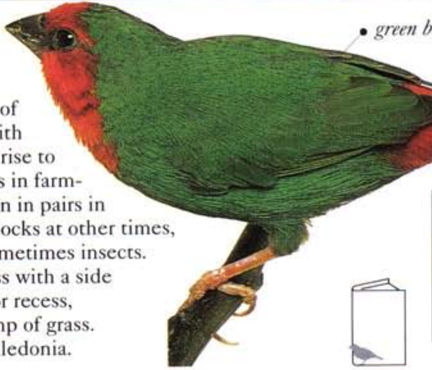
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Erythrura psittacea*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

RED-THROATED PARROT FINCH

The red-and-green plumage of this finch can be compared with that of a parrot and has given rise to the name. This species occurs in farmland and open woodland. Seen in pairs in the breeding season, and in flocks at other times, it feeds on grass seeds and sometimes insects.

- **NEST** A round nest of grass with a side entrance, usually in a cavity or recess, or under an overhanging clump of grass.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Caledonia.



DISTRIBUTION

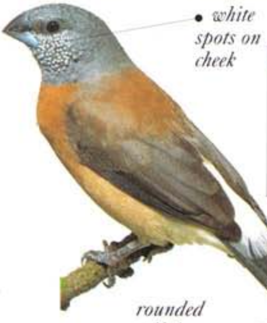
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Lonchura griseicapilla*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

GRAY-HEADED SILVERBILL

This common African finch is typically found in tropical grassland with thornbushes and in thickets along river valleys. It feeds on seeds of grasses and other plants. Small flocks come to waterholes regularly in the afternoons to drink and bathe. Birds are often seen perching and roosting in huddled groups.

- **NEST** A large, untidy, domed structure made of grass heads, lined with feathers, and placed at the end of a branch in a moderately high tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.E. Africa from Sudan and Ethiopia to Tanzania.



DISTRIBUTION

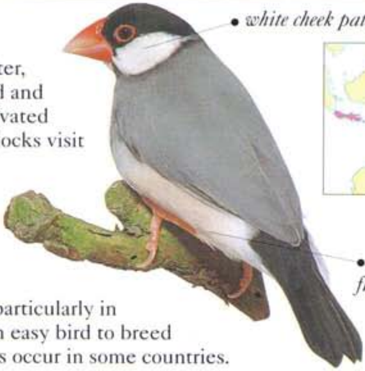
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Padda oryzivora*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

JAVA SPARROW

A heavily built but sleek-looking seed-eater, the Java Sparrow lives in tropical grassland and farmland. It feeds on grass seeds and cultivated cereals, and on occasional insects. Large flocks visit rice fields in the nonbreeding season.

- **NEST** A bell-shaped, domed structure, made of woven grass, usually under the eaves of a building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Java and Bali. Introduced in the tropics worldwide.
- **REMARK** This is a popular cage bird, particularly in Asia. Its highly sociable nature makes it an easy bird to breed in captive conditions. Escaped populations occur in some countries.



DISTRIBUTION

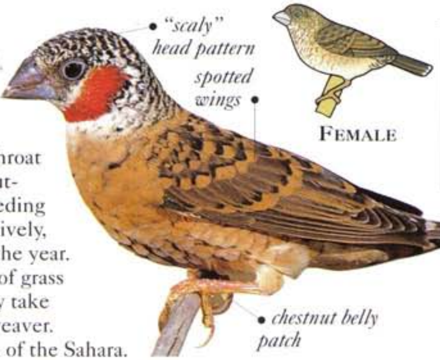
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Amadina fasciata*	Length 4¾ in (12 cm)

CUT-THROAT

This is a perky little finch of tropical grassland and drier woodland regions that feeds on seeds and insects. Only the adult males possess the red throat patch referred to in the name. Cut-throats form pairs during the breeding season and associate together in lively, chirping flocks at other times of the year.

- **NEST** Makes a spherical nest of grass and feathers. Alternatively, it may take over an old nest of a sparrow or weaver.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.



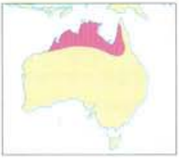
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family ESTRILDIDAE	Species *Chloebia gouldiae*	Length 5 in (13 cm)

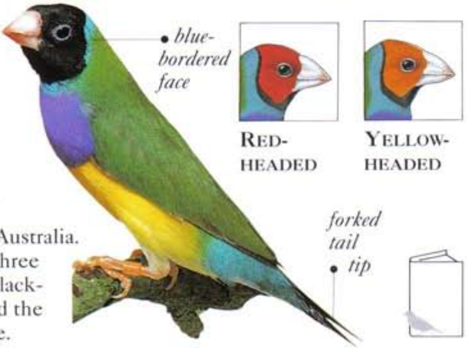
GOULDIAN FINCH

Few species of bird in the world can rival this bird for sheer splendor of color. It is a seed-eater of tropical open woodland and scrub, feeding in small flocks on the ground.



DISTRIBUTION

- **NEST** A loosely built dome of grass, usually in a hollow in the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. Australia.
- **REMARK** There are three color phases (*see p. 13*): Black-headed, Red-headed, and the rare Yellow-headed phase.



RED-HEADED

YELLOW-HEADED

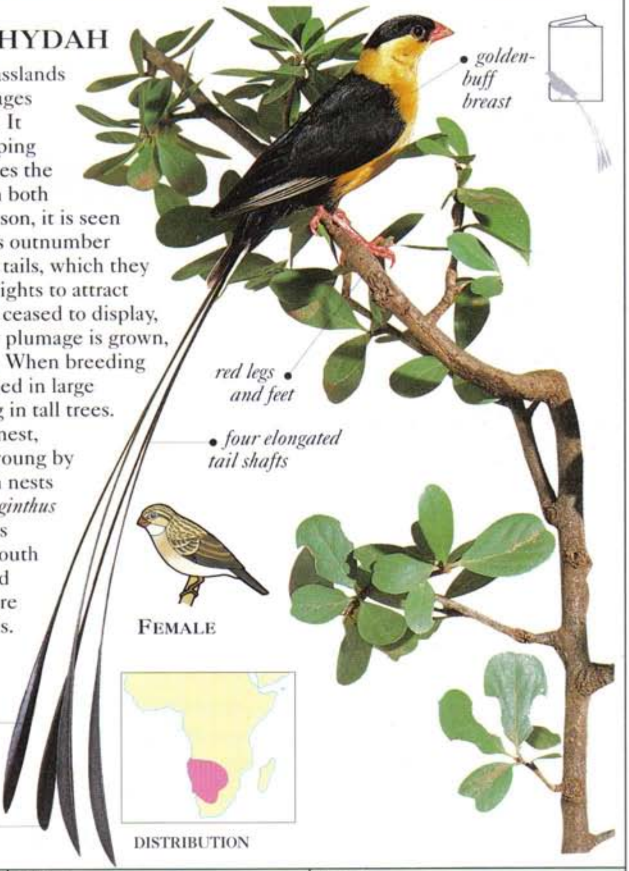
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Vidua regia*	L. 12 in (30 cm)/5 in (13 cm)

SHAFT-TAILED WHYDAH

An inhabitant of extensive grasslands in the subtropics, this bird forages on the ground for fallen seeds. It does this with an unusual hopping movement, in which it scratches the ground while jumping up with both feet. Early in the breeding season, it is seen in small parties in which males outnumber females. The males have long tails, which they show off in competitive songflights to attract females. Once the males have ceased to display, the long tail is shed and a new plumage is grown, resembling that of the female. When breeding is over, the birds gather and feed in large flocks, which are seen roosting in tall trees.

- **NEST** This bird makes no nest, but fosters out the care of its young by laying eggs, cuckoo fashion, in nests of Violet-eared Waxbills (*Uraeginthus granatina*). The young whydahs resemble young waxbills in mouth markings and in their calls, and the nestlings of both species are reared together by the waxbills.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of southern Africa.



male's elaborate tail is present only during the early stages of breeding

expanded tail tips

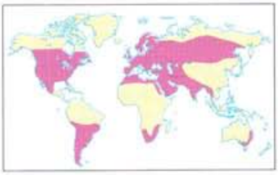
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

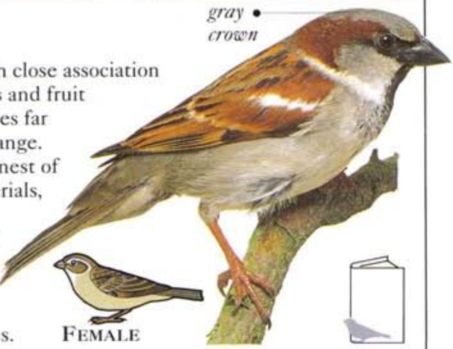
Family PASSERIDAE	Species *Passer domesticus*	Length 6 in (15 cm)

HOUSE SPARROW

This species evolved as a seed-eater but now lives in close association with man. Its ability to feed on anything from worms and fruit to kitchen scraps has enabled it to flourish in countries far beyond its original range.

- **NEST** An untidy nest of grass and other materials, often on buildings.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Originally Eurasia, N. Africa, Middle East. Introduced in many other countries.


DISTRIBUTION



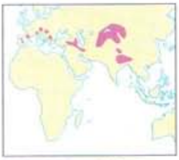
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

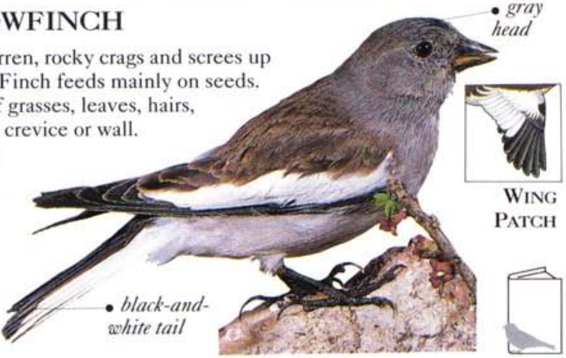
Family PASSERIDAE	Species *Montifringilla nivalis*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

WHITE-WINGED SNOWFINCH

Inhabiting alpine meadows and barren, rocky crags and screes up as high as the snow line, the Snow Finch feeds mainly on seeds.

- **NEST** A bulky cup nest made of grasses, leaves, hairs, and feathers, and situated in a rock crevice or wall.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Isolated areas in mountain ranges in S. Europe, Turkey, Iran, W. Mongolia, C. Asia, and Himalayan region.


DISTRIBUTION



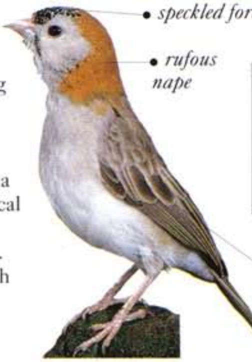
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

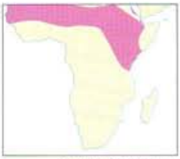
Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Sporopipes frontalis*	Length 4½ in (11 cm)

SPECKLE-FRONTED WEAVER

Tame and confiding, this grassland bird is seen in small flocks that feed on the ground, mainly eating grass seeds. At dusk, groups of three or four birds gather to roost, packed closely together on tree branches, or sometimes in thin-roofed "nests," constructed only for roosting. In flight, birds utter a pleasant contact call. The song is rolling and musical and is interspersed with chirping notes, uttered particularly when taking flight, to alert other birds.

- **NEST** A hollow ball woven out of dry grass, with an entrance tube at the side, placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Tropical Africa, from the southern Sahara through Ethiopia to Kenya.




DISTRIBUTION

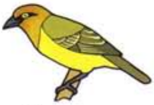
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

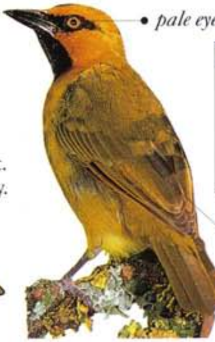
Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Ploceus ocularis*	Length 6¼ in (16 cm)

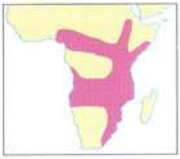
SPECTACLED WEAVER

Living in scrub, thickets, and riverside forests, and spreading into farms and suburban gardens, this shy species rarely emerges from cover. Pairs creep up and down stems, foraging for their prey of insects, spiders, and millipedes, and also taking nectar, seeds, and fruit. Males hang upside down from the nest in their display.

- **NEST** A rounded, finely woven nest, suspended from a twig over water, with a long entrance tube hanging down below.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa south of the Sahara.







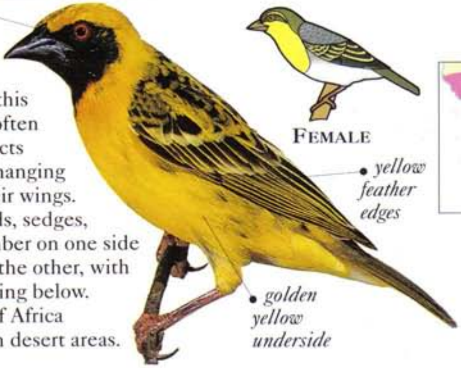
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

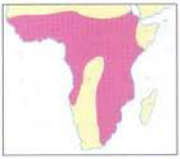
Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Ploceus cucullatus*	Length 6¾ in (17 cm)

VILLAGE WEAVER

Africa's commonest weaver, this bird forms colonies in trees, often near villages. It feeds on insects and seeds. Males display by hanging below the nest, fluttering their wings.

- **NEST** An oval nest of reeds, sedges, and grasses, with a nest chamber on one side and an entrance chamber on the other, with a vertical entrance tube hanging below.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Africa south of the Sahara, except in desert areas.





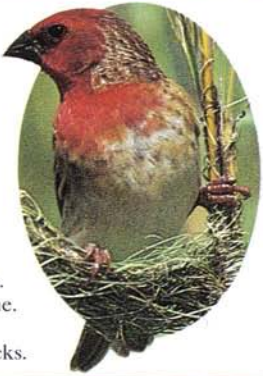
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

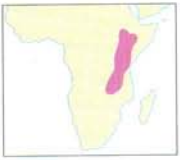
Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Quelea cardinalis*	Length 4¼ in (11 cm)

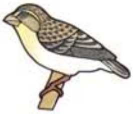
CARDINAL QUELEA

This bird is gregarious, sometimes forming nomadic flocks. It breeds in large colonies in dense stands of grass and swamps and feeds on small seeds. The male sings from the top of a tall reed, fluffing out his plumage, quivering his wings, and jerking his fanned tail.

- **NEST** A compactly woven nest made of grass, with an entrance at the top on one side, tied between upright grass stems.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Kenya to Mozambique.
- **REMARK** A relative of the Common Quelea, which occurs in million-strong flocks.







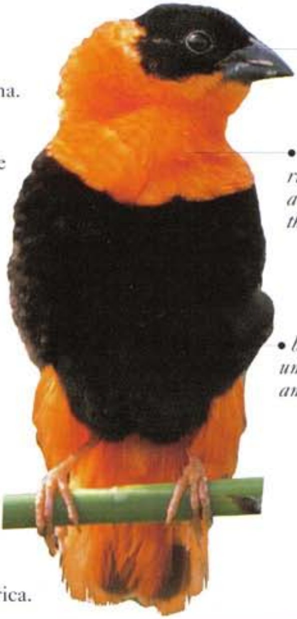
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

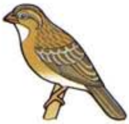
Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Euplectes orix*	Length 4¼ in (12 cm)

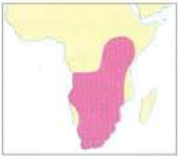
RED BISHOP

This colorful weaver is found in tall grass and reeds in relatively moist areas of savanna. A breeding male may mate with several females, as the species is polygamous. The male displays his black-and-scarlet plumage either from a perch or in slow, jerky, bouncing flight across the reedbeds. His display behavior includes fluffing out his body and head plumage and rapidly beating his wings. This eye-catching performance is accompanied by twittering or wheezy calls, uttered both from a perch or during the display flight. Outside the breeding season, birds form large flocks. When feeding, Red Bishops walk in short, deliberate steps while foraging on the ground for seeds, grains, and insects.

- **NEST** An upright, oval nest, woven out of fine grass and reed leaves, with a porched side entrance, attached to a reed stem some 3–6 ft (1–2 m) above water.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Sub-Saharan Africa, from Kenya and Angola to South Africa.




FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

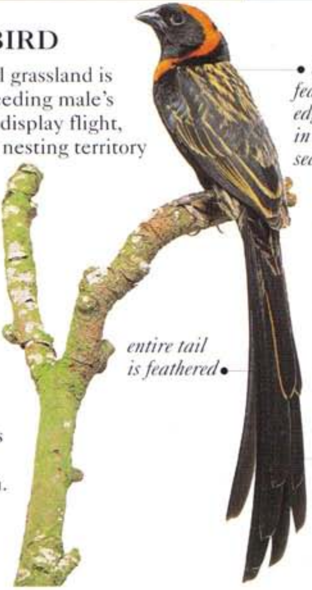
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

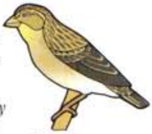
Family PLOCEIDAE	Species *Euplectes ardens*	L. 11 in (28 cm)/5 in (13 cm)

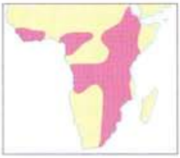
RED-COLLARED WIDOWBIRD

This widowbird of tropical and subtropical grassland is identified by the red neck band on the breeding male's otherwise black plumage. In his territorial display flight, the male flutters around in the air over his nesting territory with slow wingbeats, trailing his long, black tail. The female is duller and lacks the long tail, as do immatures. Males outside the breeding season resemble the females and lack the long tail. The species is gregarious at all times, moving about in flocks and visiting bushes and tall grass, often near water. Birds also roost in large flocks, often in tall elephant grass, again close to water. The diet consists of insects and seeds.

- **NEST** An oval nest, made of living grass and lined with dry grass, with an entrance near the top in the form of a covered porch. The nest is placed in a bush or reedbed.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas throughout Africa south of the Sahara, except in dense forest or desert areas.


buff feather edges in early season
entire tail is feathered
tail is long only in the breeding season


FEMALE


DISTRIBUTION

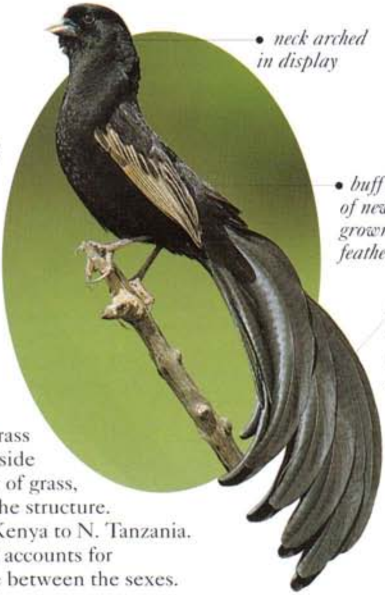
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

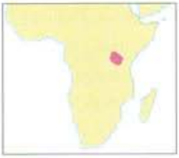
Family PLOCEIDAE | Species *Euplectes jacksoni* | L. 13 in (33 cm)/5 in (13 cm)

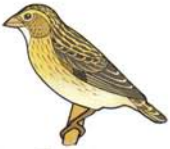
JACKSON'S WIDOWBIRD

This is a common and lively species, living in open, tropical grassland at high altitude. During the breeding season, it is easy to see, since the male performs a wild display dance around his own selected tuft of grass, leaping high into the air and arching his long tail over his back. Flocks gather in the post-breeding period and visit farmland, where they feed on seeds and insects, either on the ground or in high grass.

- **NEST** A flimsy nest made of grass and lined with seedheads, with a side entrance. It is placed low in a tuft of grass, with growing blades woven into the structure.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From S.W. Kenya to N. Tanzania.
- **REMARK** The male's long tail accounts for the 8 in (20 cm) length difference between the sexes.


neck arched in display
buff edges of newly grown feathers
whole tail is elongated in breeding plumage


DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

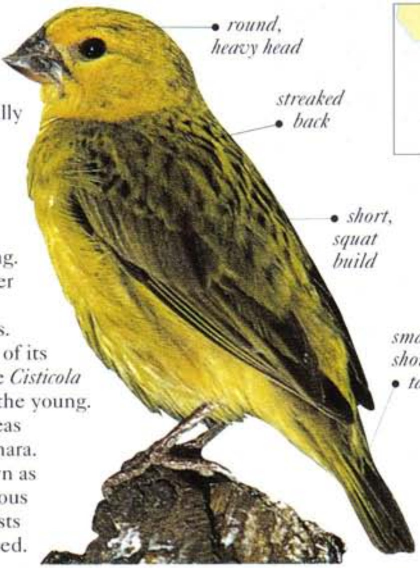
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

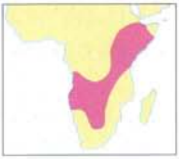
Family PLOCEIDAE | Species *Anomalospiza imberbis* | Length 5 in (13 cm)

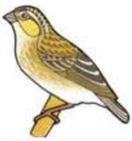
PARASITIC WEAVER

A grassland bird with a short tail and stubby bill, this species is usually found near water. It feeds almost exclusively on seeds. During the breeding season, it is seen singly or in pairs, or more rarely in small groups; males perform a "swizzling" song when displaying. Outside the breeding season, larger flocks gather together. In flight, flocks utter warbling contact notes.

- **NEST** This bird builds no nest of its own but lays eggs in nests of some *Cisticola* and *Prinia* warblers, which foster the young.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas throughout Africa south of the Sahara.
- **REMARK** Also popularly known as the Cuckoo-Finch. Its inconspicuous coloration may help it visit the nests of host birds without being detected.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

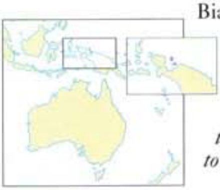
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat | Migration Non-migrant

Family STURNIDAE	Species *Aplonis magna*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

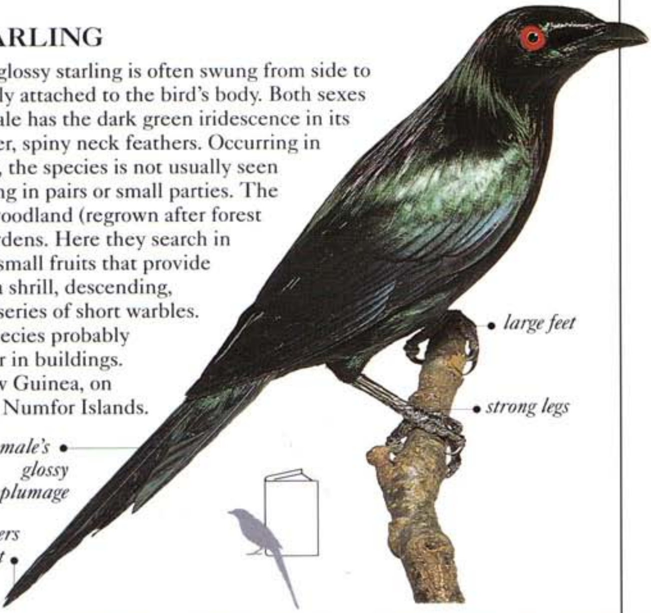
LONG-TAILED STARLING

The long, tapering tail of this glossy starling is often swung from side to side, looking as if it were loosely attached to the bird's body. Both sexes have long tails, but only the male has the dark green iridescence in its plumage, and the ruff of slender, spiny neck feathers. Occurring in both upland and lowland areas, the species is not usually seen in large flocks, normally foraging in pairs or small parties. The birds frequent tall secondary woodland (regrown after forest clearance), forest edge, and gardens. Here they search in trees and undergrowth for the small fruits that provide most of their food. The call is a shrill, descending, slurred note, and the song is a series of short warbles.

- **NEST** Unknown, but the species probably nests in cavities high in trees or in buildings.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.W. New Guinea, on Biak and Numfor Islands.



DISTRIBUTION



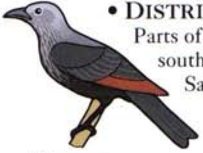
Plumage Sexes differ slightly	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STURNIDAE	Species *Onycognathus morio*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

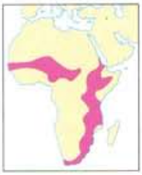
RED-WINGED STARLING

The primary feathers on the broad wings of this slender, long-legged starling flash rich chestnut as the bird dips and swoops through the air. It feeds both on the ground and in the trees, taking fruit, insects, and sometimes nectar. When not breeding, it is often seen in small parties or larger flocks, but it breeds in separate, strongly bonded pairs. Its natural nest sites are in mountains, cliffs, and rocky hills, but it now also often nests on buildings.

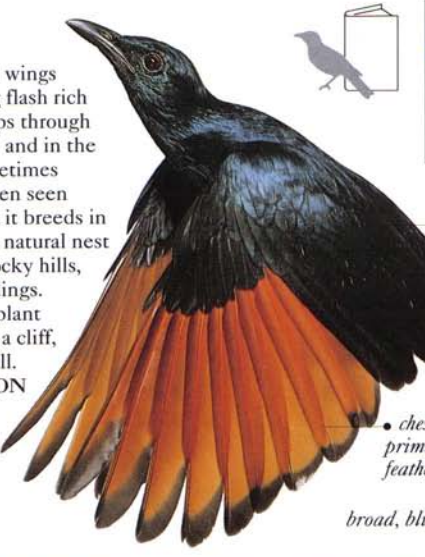
- **NEST** A mud bowl bound with plant fibers, in a crevice or on a ledge on a cliff, rocky outcrop, or wall.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Parts of Africa south of the Sahara.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION



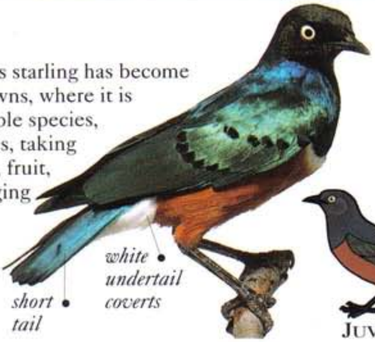
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

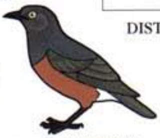
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Lamprotornis superbus*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

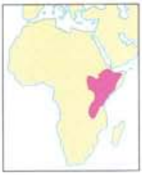
SUPERB STARLING

Originally a bird of open country, this starling has become adapted to farmland, villages, and towns, where it is common and fairly tame. It is a sociable species, feeding on the ground in small parties, taking insects and other small invertebrates, fruit, and some seeds. It is often seen begging for food around safari camp sites.

- **NEST** A ball of grasses in a bush or a tree cavity.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Africa from Sudan and Ethiopia south to Tanzania.




JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

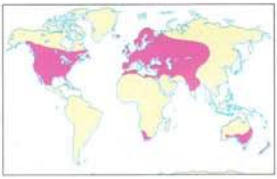
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family STURNIDAE	Species *Sturnus vulgaris*	Length 8 in (20 cm)

COMMON STARLING

Conspicuous for its habit of forming large flocks to roost, this species has adapted well to life in towns and cities. It breeds in loose colonies, in which the males defend their nests fiercely. Feeding flocks probe the ground with sharp bills for worms and insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a tree hole, among rocks, or inside a building or nest box.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe and N. Africa east as far as W. China and India. Introduced in North America, South Africa, and S. Australia.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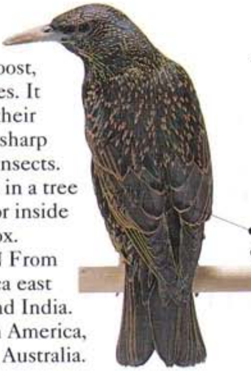
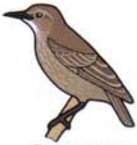



JUVENILE

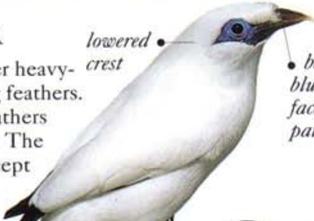
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

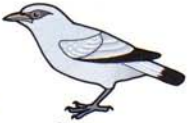
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Leucopsar rothschildi*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

ROTHSCHILD'S MYNA

This stocky, white bird owes its rather heavy-headed appearance to a crown of long feathers. In courtship, the male raises these feathers and performs a head-bobbing display. The species is sociable, forming flocks except when breeding. Birds forage in the trees for fruit and insects.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a tree hole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Bali, Indonesia.
- **REMARK** Due to the destruction of its habitat, the wild population is almost extinct. Attempts are being made to save it by aviary breeding.




JUVENILE

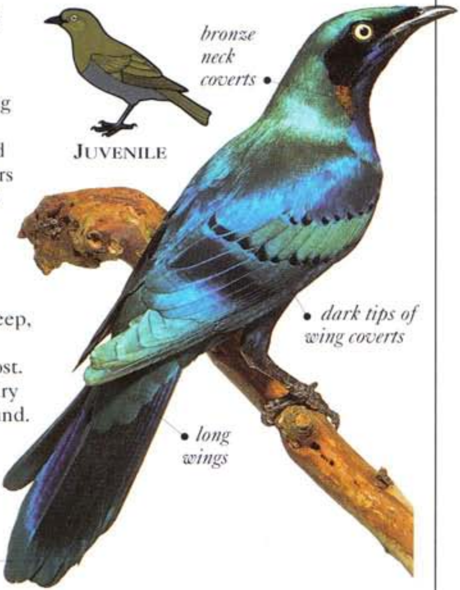
DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

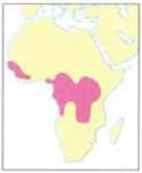
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Lamprotornis splendidus*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

SPLENDID GLOSSY STARLING

Flocks of this sociable, noisy species often travel nomadically through open woodland or along the galleries of tall trees beside tropical rivers, searching for ripe fruit and insects in the upper foliage. The Splendid Glossy Starling is particularly fond of wild figs, and a fruiting fig tree may attract large numbers of feeding birds. Being up in the tree canopy for so much of the time, the species is difficult to spot, but when flying between trees it can often be recognized by its distinctive, hunched posture. Its beating wings make a noticeable swishing sound. Calls include shrill whistles, rasping sounds, and deep, throaty noises. These are heard particularly in the evening as the birds gather in their hundreds to roost.



- **NEST** A tree hole, lined with dry grasses, often high above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forest zone of W. and C. Africa.


DISTRIBUTION

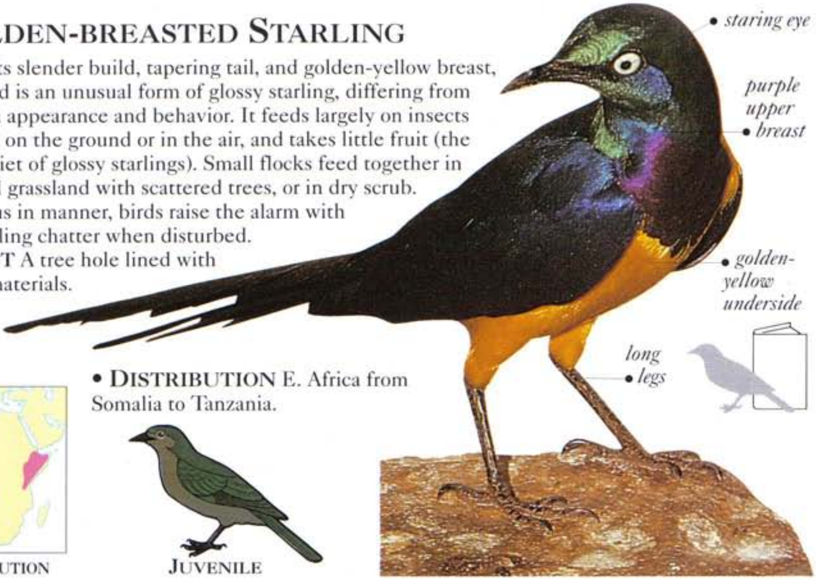
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

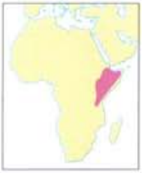
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Cosmopsarus regius*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

GOLDEN-BREASTED STARLING

With its slender build, tapering tail, and golden-yellow breast, this bird is an unusual form of glossy starling, differing from most in appearance and behavior. It feeds largely on insects hunted on the ground or in the air, and takes little fruit (the usual diet of glossy starlings). Small flocks feed together in tropical grassland with scattered trees, or in dry scrub. Nervous in manner, birds raise the alarm with a whistling chatter when disturbed.

- **NEST** A tree hole lined with plant materials.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Africa from Somalia to Tanzania.




DISTRIBUTION

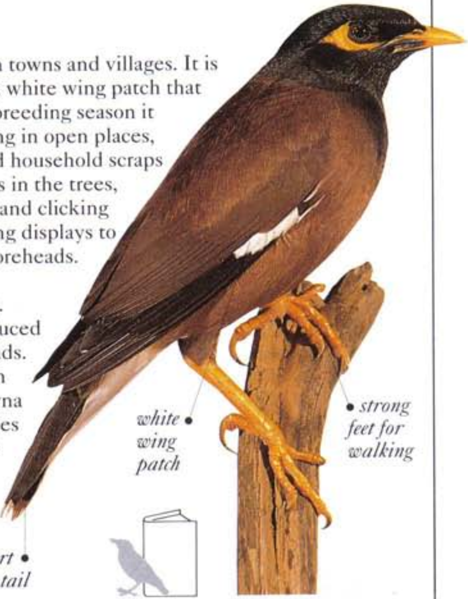
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

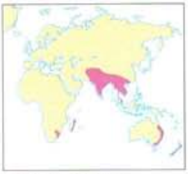
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Acridotheres tristis*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

COMMON MYNA

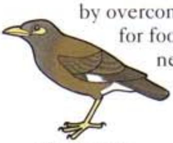
This grassland starling has adapted well to living in towns and villages. It is a robust bird with a fearless manner, identified by a white wing patch that shows when the wings open in flight. Outside the breeding season it is often seen in small parties or larger flocks, foraging in open places, gardens, or streets. Fruit, seeds, insects, worms, and household scraps are all eaten. At dusk the birds gather in large roosts in the trees, calling noisily with a range of gurgling, squawking, and clicking sounds. When breeding, males perform head-bowing displays to their partners, raising the bristly feathers on their foreheads.

- **NEST** A rough, bowl-shaped structure of grass, roots, and twigs, built in a tree hole or in a building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Iran to S.E. Asia. Introduced in Arabia, Africa, Australasia, and some Pacific islands.
- **REMARK** In some of the areas where it has been introduced, the Common Myna has harmed local native species by overcompetition for food and nest sites.





DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

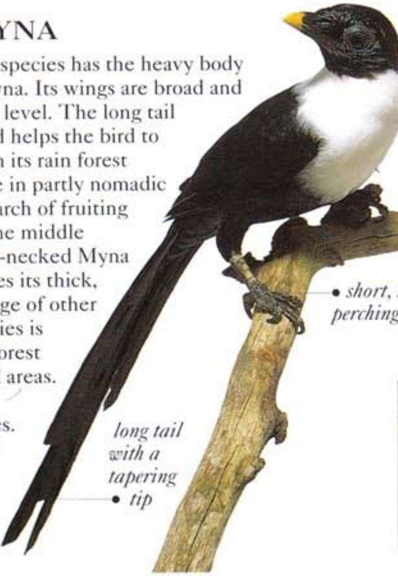
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family STURNIDAE	Species *Streptocitta albicollis*	Length 9 in (23 cm)

WHITE-NECKED MYNA

A large, long-tailed starling, this species has the heavy body and powerful legs typical of a myna. Its wings are broad and round, and its flight is direct and level. The long tail assists balance in level flight, and helps the bird to maneuver among the branches in its rain forest habitat. Large, noisy flocks move in partly nomadic fashion through the forests in search of fruiting trees. Birds generally forage in the middle height of the foliage. The White-necked Myna feeds mainly on fruit but also uses its thick, blunt bill to deal with a wide range of other foods. Within its range, this species is common in all types of tropical forest but is most numerous in lowland areas.

- **NEST** Unknown, but similar species of myna nest in tree holes.
- **DISTRIBUTION** The island of Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- **REMARK** There are two subspecies: the southern has yellow on the bill, the northern has an all-black bill.

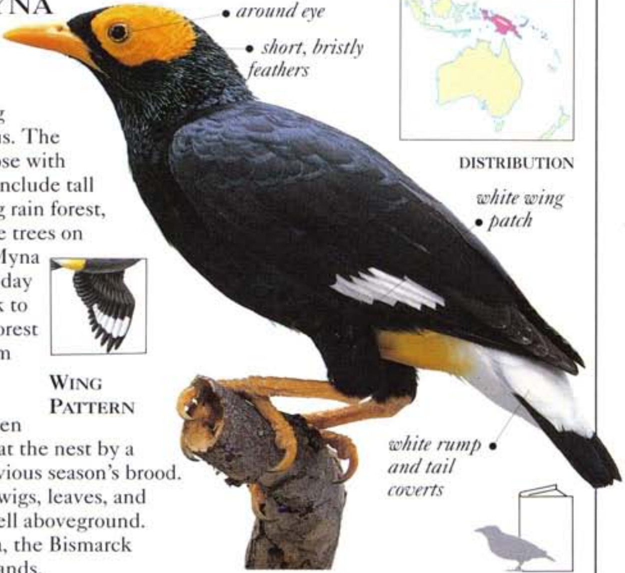


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant/nomadic

Family STURNIDAE	Species *Mino dumontii*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

YELLOW-FACED MYNA



DISTRIBUTION

When this bird is perched, its bare face patches are its most distinctive feature. In flight, the white rump, tail coverts, and wing patches become more conspicuous. The species lives in trees, favoring those with open space around them. These include tall trees rising above the surrounding rain forest, trees at the forest edge, and single trees on open ground. The Yellow-faced Myna occurs in pairs or small parties by day but often gathers in flocks at dusk to roost. The birds feed mainly on forest fruits, but occasionally fly out from the branches to snatch swarming insects in midair. Perched birds utter frequent, croaking calls. When breeding, pairs are often assisted at the nest by a "helper," typically one of the previous season's brood.

WING PATTERN

- **NEST** A bowl-shaped nest of twigs, leaves, and dry stems, built in a tree cavity well aboveground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, and the Solomon Islands.

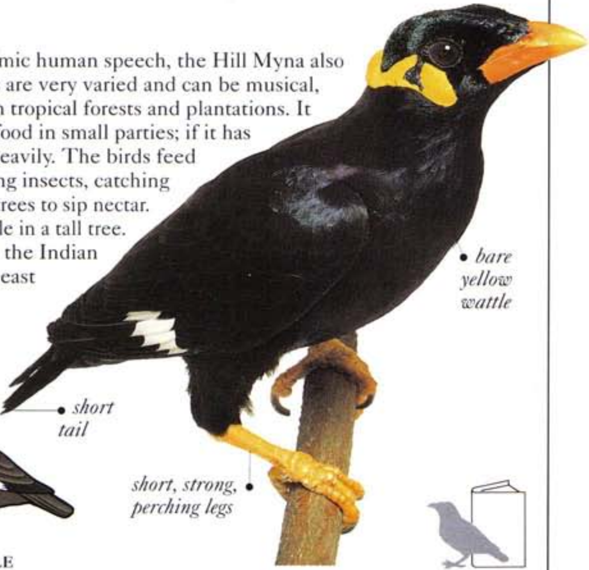
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

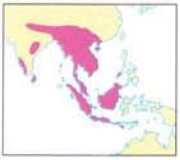
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Gracula religiosa*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

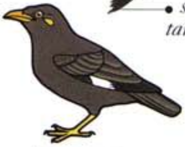
HILL MYNA

Known in captivity for its ability to mimic human speech, the Hill Myna also chatters constantly in the wild. Its calls are very varied and can be musical, harsh, or wheezy. The species occurs in tropical forests and plantations. It lives in the forest canopy, foraging for food in small parties; if it has to visit the ground it hops slowly and heavily. The birds feed mainly on fruit and berries, also gleaning insects, catching winged termites, and visiting flowering trees to sip nectar.

- **NEST** A cup nest placed deep in a hole in a tall tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Scattered areas in the Indian subcontinent, and from the Himalayas east into S. China and much of S.E. Asia.
- **REMARK** Aviary-bred birds reared in isolation from their parents become good mimics of human speech.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

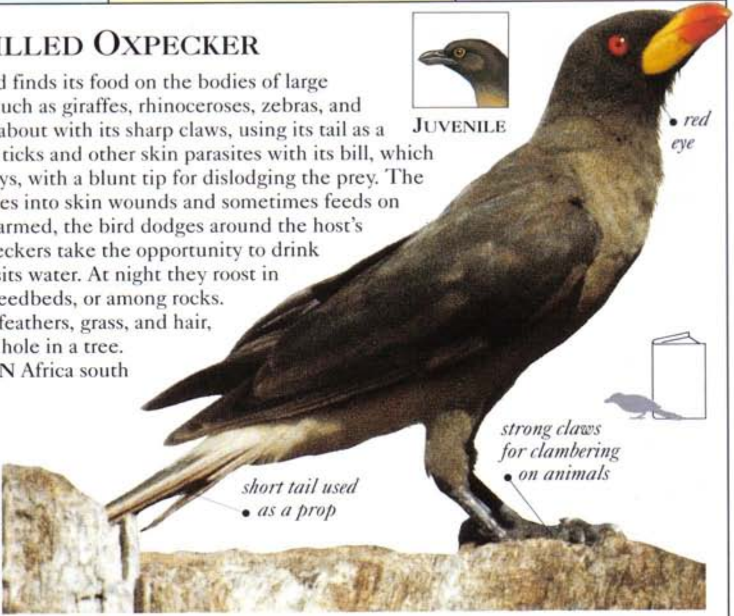
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

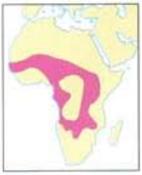
Family STURNIDAE	Species *Buphagus africanus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER

This grassland bird finds its food on the bodies of large grazing mammals such as giraffes, rhinoceroses, zebras, and cattle. It clambers about with its sharp claws, using its tail as a prop, and removes ticks and other skin parasites with its bill, which is flattened sideways, with a blunt tip for dislodging the prey. The oxpecker also probes into skin wounds and sometimes feeds on wound tissue. If alarmed, the bird dodges around the host's body to hide. Oxpeckers take the opportunity to drink when their host visits water. At night they roost in flocks in trees, in reedbeds, or among rocks.

- **NEST** A pad of feathers, grass, and hair, placed in a natural hole in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Africa south of the Sahara.


JUVENILE
red eye
strong claws for clambering on animals
short tail used as a prop


DISTRIBUTION

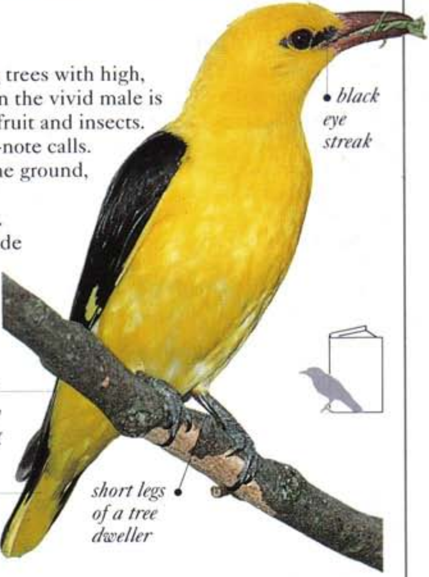
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

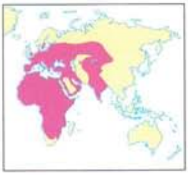
Family ORIOLIDAE	Species *Oriolus oriolus*	Length 8½ in (22 cm)

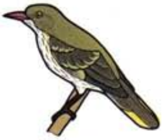
GOLDEN ORIOLE

This species occurs in deciduous woodland, preferring trees with high, open canopies. Females are well camouflaged, but even the vivid male is often hard to see as he searches the treetop foliage for fruit and insects. The birds can be detected by their loud, fluting, three-note calls. They fly swiftly, often in shallow swoops. Uneasy on the ground, they stay in the air even to bathe, splashing into water momentarily before returning to the safety of the trees.

- **NEST** A cup nest slung in a horizontal twig fork, made of grasses, wool, and strips of bark, finely lined, and situated high in the outer twigs of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Breeds in much of Europe, C. Asia, and N. India. Winters in Africa and India.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

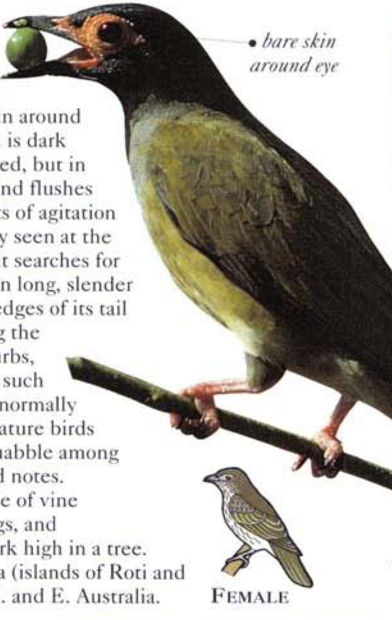
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Migrant

Family ORIOLIDAE	Species *Sphecotheres viridis*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

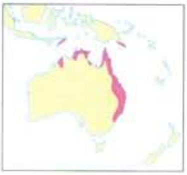
GREEN FIGBIRD

A strong, slender oriole with a powerful bill, the Green Figbird has a distinctive patch of bare skin around the eye. In the female, this patch is dark purplish gray and easily overlooked, but in the male it is a pale pinkish red and flushes a deeper, brighter red in moments of agitation or excitement. The bird is usually seen at the forest edge or in clearings. Here it searches for wild fruits with a dipping flight on long, slender wings, in which the white outer edges of its tail are revealed. It also occurs among the scattered trees of towns and suburbs, where it feeds on cultivated fruit such as bananas and pawpaws. Adults normally forage singly or in pairs, but immature birds tend to form noisy flocks that squabble among themselves in harsh, high pitched notes.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest made of vine tendrils, reinforced with thin twigs, and suspended in a horizontal twig fork high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Indonesia (islands of Roti and Timor), S.E. New Guinea, and N. and E. Australia.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION

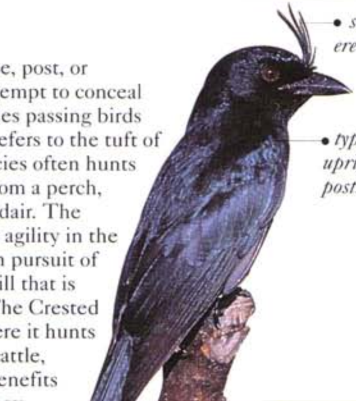
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

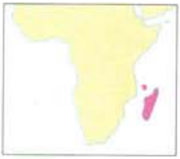
Family DICRURIDAE	Species *Dicrurus forficatus*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

CRESTED DRONGO

Often conspicuous as it perches upright on a tree, post, or rock, watching for food, this bird makes little attempt to conceal itself from potential enemies. It sometimes harries passing birds of prey with aggressive mock attacks. Its name refers to the tuft of feathers that springs from its forehead. The species often hunts in open woodland, where it watches vigilantly from a perch, then darts out to intercept a passing insect in midair. The long, outward-curving, forked tail provides great agility in the air, and the bird frequently twists and tumbles in pursuit of its prey, finally snatching it up in a short, stout bill that is slightly hooked to ensure a grip on the victim. The Crested Drongo also frequents more open grassland, where it hunts for insects that have been disturbed by grazing cattle, which it uses as mobile perches. The bird also benefits from brush or grass fires, picking off insects as they escape from the heat. Crested Drongos hunt alone or in pairs, uttering twanging, metallic call notes.

- **NEST** A light cup nest of interwoven plant fibers, suspended between two twigs forming a horizontal fork at the end of a branch in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Madagascar and Comoro Islands (northwest of Madagascar).





DISTRIBUTION

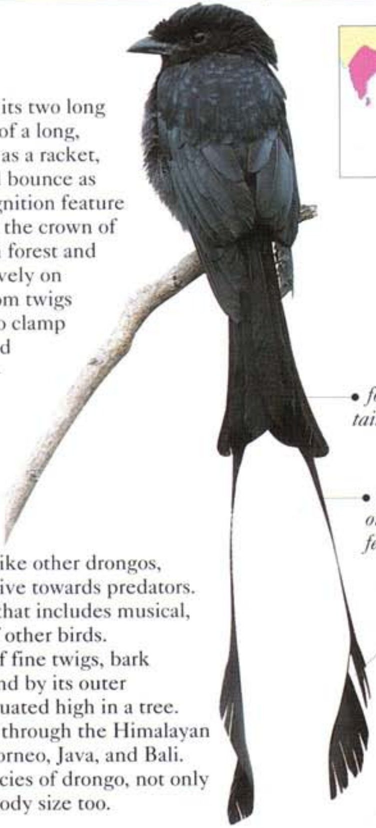
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

Family DICRURIDAE	Species *Dicrurus paradiseus*	Length 25 in (63 cm)

GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO

This large drongo can be recognized by its two long tail feathers. Each of these is composed of a long, wirelike shaft with a broad vane, known as a racket, at its tip. In flight, the rackets ripple and bounce as they trail behind the bird. Another recognition feature is the loose, backward-drooping crest on the crown of the head. The species is common in rain forest and bamboo jungle and feeds almost exclusively on insects, caught on the wing or picked from twigs and foliage. It can use its versatile feet to clamp a large insect to the perch, or to grasp and raise the prey to its bill. Greater Racket-tailed Drongos hunt by flying out repeatedly from the same perch, or by moving from tree to tree, either alone or in small parties. Such parties often associate with birds of other species, to form large hunting flocks. These flocks flush insects out of the vegetation as they pass, making them easy to catch. Like other drongos, the Greater Racket-tail is boldly aggressive towards predators. It utters metallic calls, as well as a song that includes musical, whistling sounds and skillful mimicry of other birds.

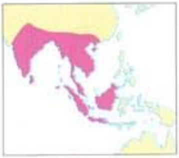
- **NEST** A deep, loose cup nest made of fine twigs, bark strips, grass stems, and spiderwebs, bound by its outer rim to a horizontally forked twig, and situated high in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of India and through the Himalayan region to S. China, and south as far as Borneo, Java, and Bali.
- **REMARK** This bird is the largest species of drongo, not only on account of tail length but in overall body size too.



forked tail

long-shafted outer tail feathers

rackets are always twisted



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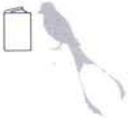


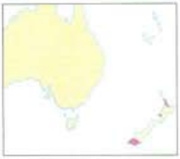
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family CALLAEATIDAE	Species *Creadion carunculatus*	Length 10 in (25 cm)

SADDLEBACK

Identified by its fleshy wattles, this forest bird lives mainly in the trees, probing bark for insects and taking fruit and nectar. It makes only brief flights. Pairs remain together.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a tree hole or dense foliage.
- **DISTRIBUTION** New Zealand; once widespread, now only on a few small islands.



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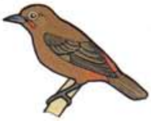
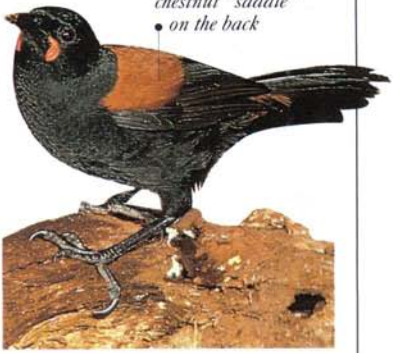


SOUTH ISLAND JUVENILE



chestnut "saddle" on the back

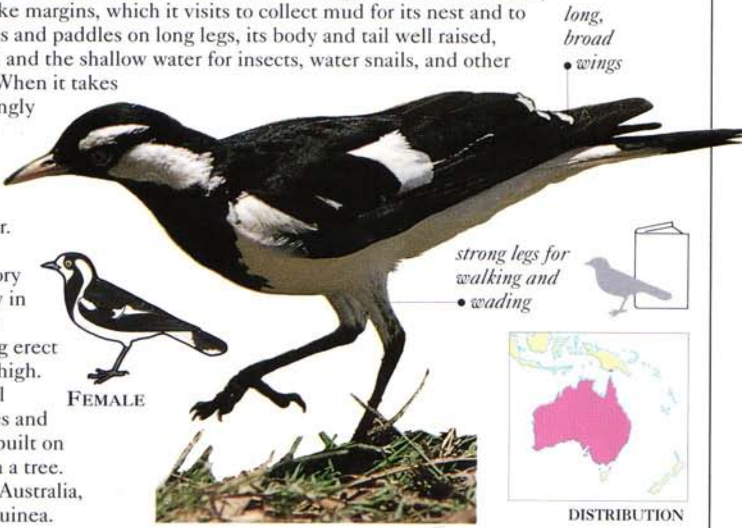
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ✈ 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

Family GRALLINIDAE	Species *Grallina cyanoleuca*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

MAGPIE-LARK

Although common on farmland and even in towns, the Magpie-Lark is essentially a bird of pond and lake margins, which it visits to collect mud for its nest and to look for food. It walks and paddles on long legs, its body and tail well raised, searching the ground and the shallow water for insects, water snails, and other small invertebrates. When it takes to the air, it flies strongly and directly, steadily flapping its large, rounded wings. After mating, pairs often remain together. They advertise their possession of a territory with a mutual display in which each bird calls in turn while standing erect and raising its wings high.

- **NEST** A mud bowl lined with fine grasses and sometimes feathers, built on a horizontal branch in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, and part of S. New Guinea.



DISTRIBUTION

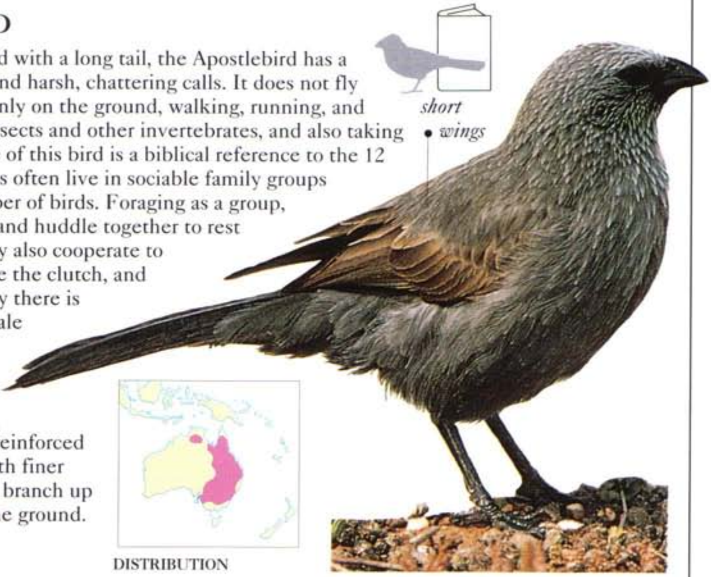
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳 ✈ ▁ ≋	Migration Non-migrant

Family CORCORACIDAE	Species *Struthidea cinerea*	Length 12½ in (32 cm)

APOSTLEBIRD

A ground-dwelling bird with a long tail, the Apostlebird has a busy, fussing manner and harsh, chattering calls. It does not fly strongly and feeds mainly on the ground, walking, running, and hopping in search of insects and other invertebrates, and also taking small seeds. The name of this bird is a biblical reference to the 12 apostles, since the birds often live in sociable family groups consisting of this number of birds. Foraging as a group, they preen each other and huddle together to rest and roost in trees. They also cooperate to build the nest, incubate the clutch, and feed the young. Usually there is only one breeding female in the group, but sometimes two or more will lay their eggs in the same nest.

- **NEST** A mud bowl reinforced with grass and lined with finer grasses, on a horizontal branch up to 49 ft (15 m) above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N. and E. Australia.

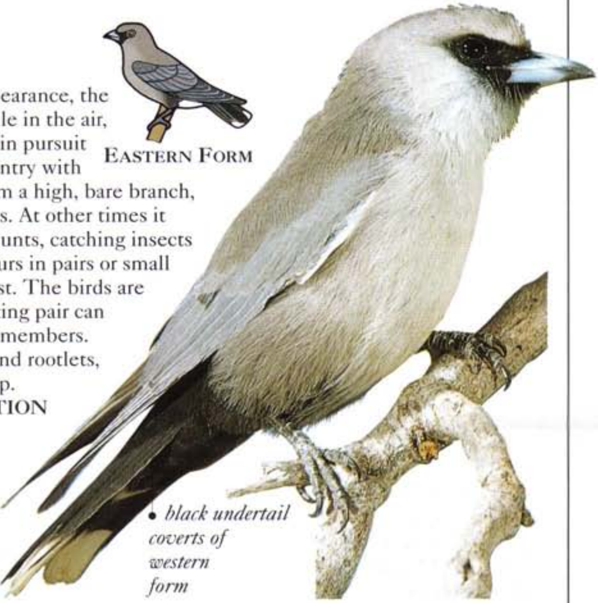


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ✈	Migration Non-migrant

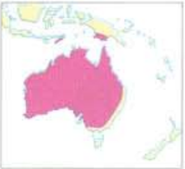
Family ARTAMIDAE	Species *Artamus cinereus*	Length 7 in (18 cm)

BLACK-FACED WOODSWALLOW



Despite its stout, heavy-headed appearance, the Black-faced Woodswallow is very agile in the air, flying easily on long, tapering wings in pursuit of its insect prey. Found in open country with scattered trees, it watches alertly from a high, bare branch, darting out to ambush passing insects. At other times it circles or glides in prolonged aerial hunts, catching insects in its broad-based bill. It usually occurs in pairs or small flocks, which huddle together to roost. The birds are sociable when breeding and the nesting pair can often rely on help from other family members.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of twigs and rootlets, built inside a shrub or a hollow stump.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Timor, S. New Guinea, and Australia.



DISTRIBUTION

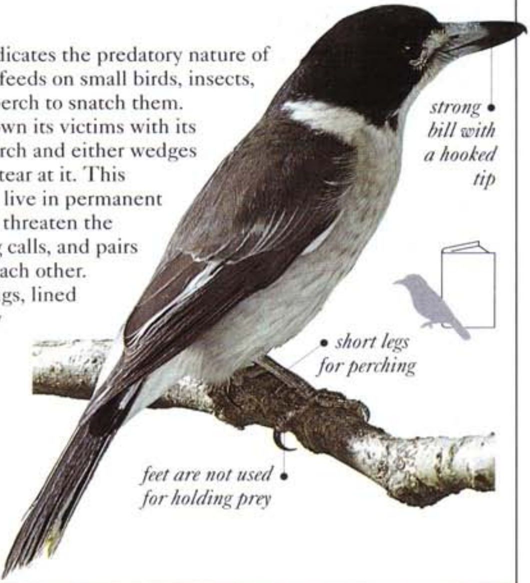
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

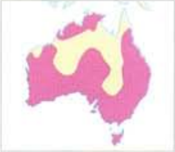
Family CRACTICIDAE	Species *Cracticus torquatus*	Length 10½ in (27 cm)

GRAY BUTCHERBIRD

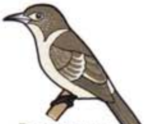
A long, powerful bill with a hooked tip indicates the predatory nature of this species. Its flight is strong and fast. It feeds on small birds, insects, lizards, and mice, swooping down from a perch to snatch them. Unlike true birds of prey it cannot hold down its victims with its foot. Instead, it carries prey back to the perch and either wedges it in a twig fork or impales it on a thorn to tear at it. This behavior probably explains its name. Pairs live in permanent territories and boldly attack predators that threaten the nest. The species utters musical, whistling calls, and pairs sing "duets" while repeatedly bowing to each other.

- **NEST** A well built cup nest of small twigs, lined with rootlets and vine tendrils, and usually placed in a vertical tree fork.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Australia, excluding desert areas.


strong • *bill with a hooked tip*
• *short legs for perching*
feet are not used • *for holding prey*



DISTRIBUTION



JUVENILE

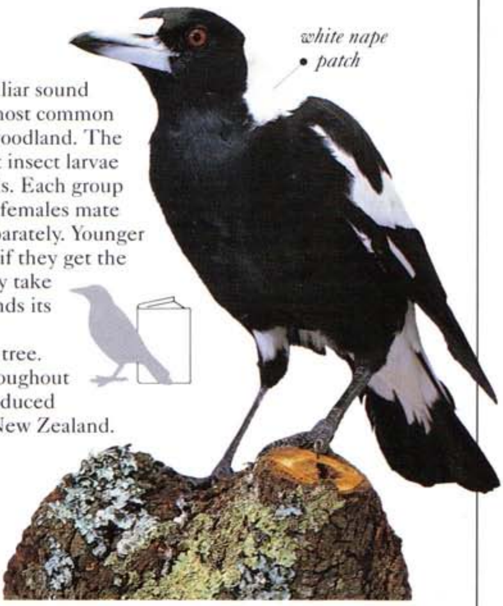
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

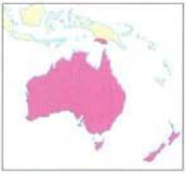
Family CRACTICIDAE	Species *Gymnorhina tibicen*	Length 16 in (40 cm)

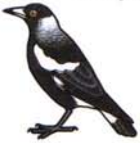
AUSTRALASIAN MAGPIE

The chorus of musical call notes uttered by a perched group of males of this species is a familiar sound throughout much of Australia. The species is most common in farmland with scattered trees, and in open woodland. The birds feed in groups on the ground, digging out insect larvae and other invertebrates with their powerful bills. Each group has a complex social structure, in which all the females mate with a single, dominant male and then nest separately. Younger males in the group may mate with the females if they get the opportunity, but unlike the dominant male they take no part in feeding the young. Each group defends its breeding territory against neighboring groups.

- **NEST** A shallow bowl, lined and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.C. New Guinea and throughout Australia; introduced in Fiji and New Zealand.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

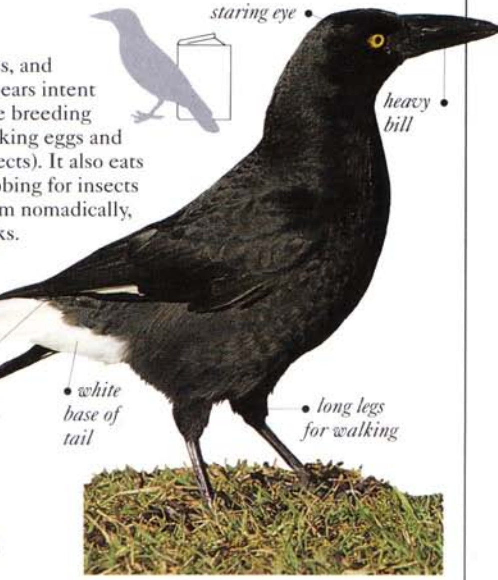
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

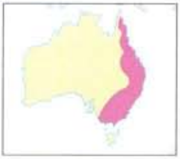
Family CRACTICIDAE	Species *Strepera graculina*	Length 20 in (50 cm)

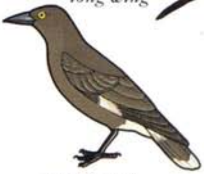
PIED CURRAWONG

With its slender build, powerful bill, staring eyes, and slightly furtive manner, the Pied Currawong appears intent on mischief. Indeed it is a nest robber during the breeding season, when it frequently feeds in the forest, taking eggs and nestlings as well as insects (particularly stick insects). It also eats berries and carrion, and feeds on the ground, probing for insects in open, grassy places. In winter, large flocks roam nomadically, roosting communally and visiting towns and parks. The name is derived from the "curra-wong" call.

- **NEST** A large cup nest, lined, in a forked branch of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Forest regions of E. Australia.




DISTRIBUTION


JUVENILE

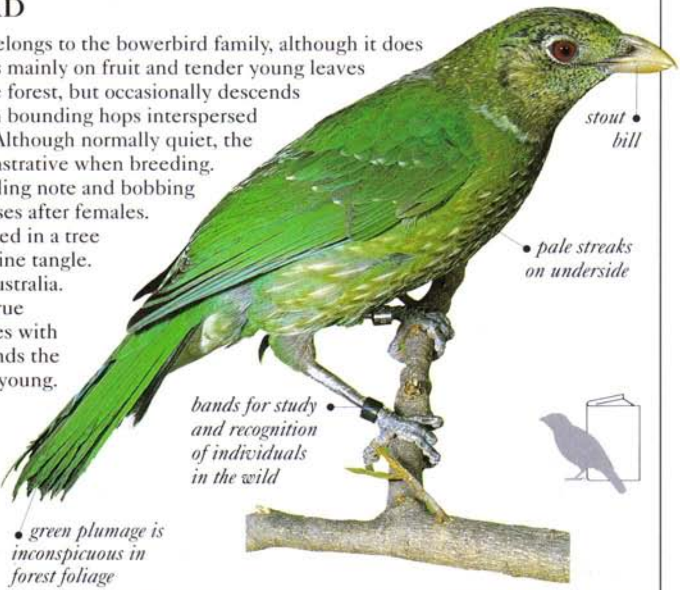
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant/nomadic

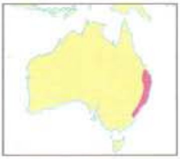
Family PTILONORHYNCHIDAE | Species *Ailuroedus crassirostris* | Length 13 in (33 cm)

GREEN CATBIRD

This rain forest species belongs to the bowerbird family, although it does not build a bower. It feeds mainly on fruit and tender young leaves in the middle levels of the forest, but occasionally descends to ground level, moving in bounding hops interspersed with short, heavy flights. Although normally quiet, the male bird becomes demonstrative when breeding. Calling with a catlike, wailing note and bobbing his head and body, he chases after females.

- **NEST** A cup nest, located in a tree fork, a tree fern top, or a vine tangle.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Australia.
- **REMARK** Unlike the true bowerbirds, the male mates with only one female. He defends the nest and helps to rear the young.


stout bill
pale streaks on underside
bands for study and recognition of individuals in the wild
green plumage is inconspicuous in forest foliage



DISTRIBUTION

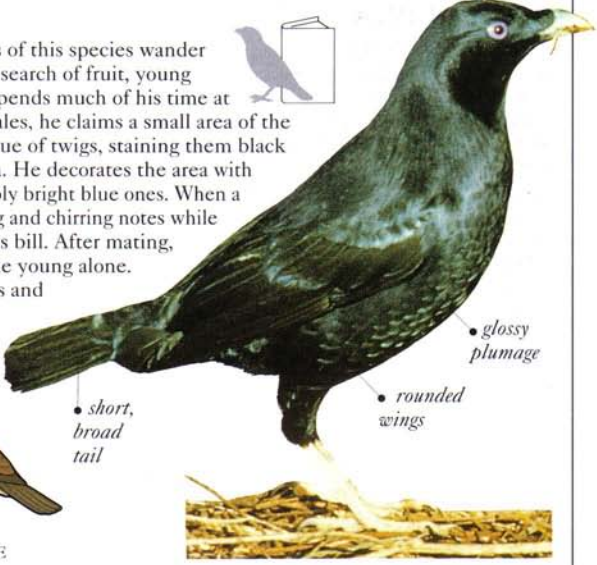
Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

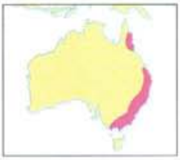
Family PTILONORHYNCHIDAE | Species *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* | Length 12 in (30 cm)

SATIN BOWERBIRD

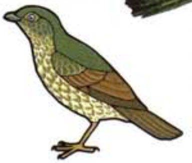
While the females and young males of this species wander in small flocks through the forest in search of fruit, young leaves, and insects, the adult male spends much of his time at the "bower." Working near other males, he claims a small area of the forest floor and erects a narrow avenue of twigs, staining them black with a mixture of charcoal and saliva. He decorates the area with feathers, flowers, and stones, preferably bright blue ones. When a female visits, he woos her with fizzing and chirring notes while exhibiting his brightest objects in his bill. After mating, the female leaves to nest and rear the young alone.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest of twigs and dry leaves, built in a twig fork or mistletoe clump, in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. Australia.


glossy plumage
rounded wings
short, broad tail



DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳 🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

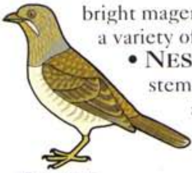
Family PTILONORHYNCHIDAE | Species *Chlamydera maculata* | Length 11 in (28 cm)

SPOTTED BOWERBIRD

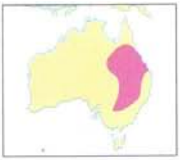
This bird occurs in dense, dry forest, both in foothills and alongside creeks, feeding on insects, seeds, and berries. Its name refers to the bowers built by the males to court the females. In this species the bower is a short avenue of interwoven stems, tinted red with a mixture of grass juice and saliva. Each end is ornamented with white or green objects – bones, stones, snail shells, and even glass. Males are polygamous, and the builder attracts females by a display of his bright magenta nape patch, accompanied by a variety of hissing and chirring sounds.

• **NEST** A loose saucer of twigs and stems, on a horizontal branch or among mistletoe in a tree.

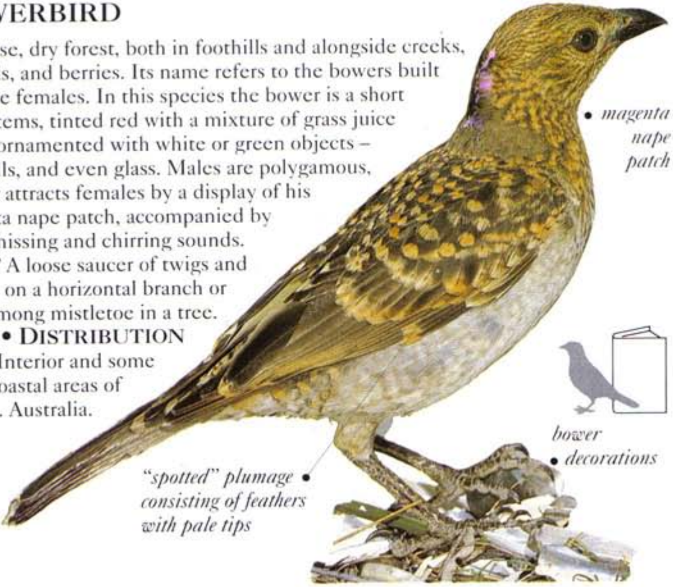
• **DISTRIBUTION** Interior and some coastal areas of E. Australia.



FEMALE



DISTRIBUTION



Plumage Sexes alike | Habitat 🌳🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

Family PARADISAEIDAE | Species *Cicinnurus regius* | L. 11 in (28 cm)/6¾ in (17 cm)

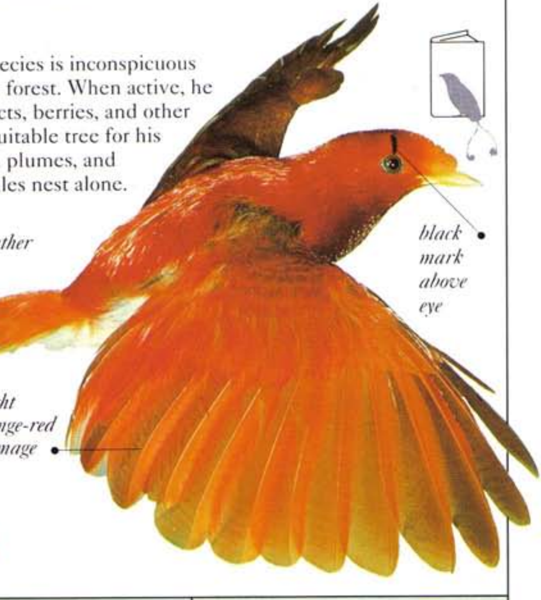
KING BIRD-OF-PARADISE

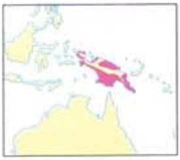
Though vividly colored, the male of this species is inconspicuous for much of the time, hiding in lowland rain forest. When active, he hops through the branches in search of insects, berries, and other small fruits. To court females, he selects a suitable tree for his display, puffs out his plumage, raises his tail plumes, and utters repeated screams. After mating, females nest alone.

• **NEST** A thick cup nest of palm fibers, in a tree hole.

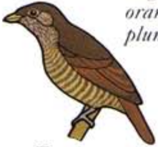
• **DISTRIBUTION** Lowland areas of New Guinea.

• **REMARK** The male's tail accounts for the length difference between sexes.





DISTRIBUTION



FEMALE

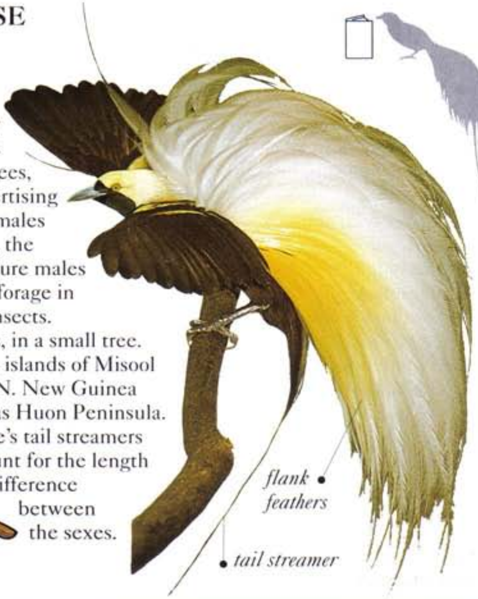
Plumage Sexes differ | Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 | Migration Non-migrant

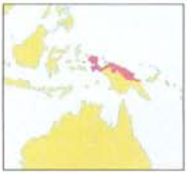
Family PARADISAEIDAE	Species *Paradisaea minor*	L. 51 in (130 cm)/15 in (38 cm)

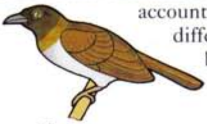
LESSER BIRD-OF-PARADISE

Spectacular tufts of plumes on either flank of the male help to identify this rain forest bird. In contrast with males of most other bird-of-paradise species, he does not display alone but with other males. Groups of males gather on bare branches high in the forest trees, to call and arch their plumes invitingly, advertising their presence with loud, staccato notes. Females visit displaying males to mate. After mating, the female nests and rears the young alone. Mature males are solitary, while females and young males forage in small groups. Both sexes feed on fruit and insects.

- **NEST** A cup of twigs, tendrils, and leaves, in a small tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.W. New Guinea; the islands of Misool and Yapen; and along N. New Guinea extending as far west as Huon Peninsula.
- **REMARK** The male's tail streamers account for the length difference between the sexes.




DISTRIBUTION


FEMALE

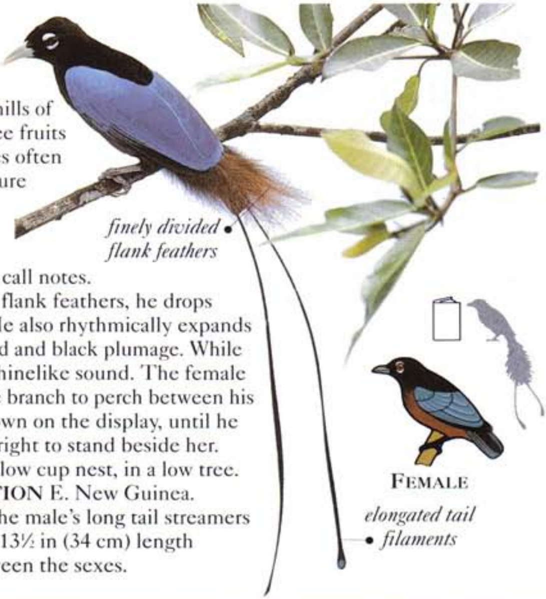
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

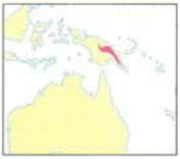
Family PARADISAEIDAE	Species *Paradisaea rudolphi*	L. 25 in (63 cm)/11½ in (29 cm)

BLUE BIRD-OF-PARADISE

This rain forest bird inhabits the foothills of mountainous regions and feeds on tree fruits and insects. Females and young males often forage in small parties, while the mature male usually feeds alone. He also performs his courtship display alone, choosing an open perch as a display site, and uttering a series of plaintive call notes. Then, fanning out his blue belly and flank feathers, he drops upside down and vibrates his body. He also rhythmically expands and contracts a special patch of rust-red and black plumage. While doing this he utters a throbbing, machinelike sound. The female moves along the branch to perch between his feet, looking down on the display, until he swings back upright to stand beside her.

- **NEST** A shallow cup nest, in a low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. New Guinea.
- **REMARK** The male's long tail streamers account for the 13½ in (34 cm) length difference between the sexes.




DISTRIBUTION

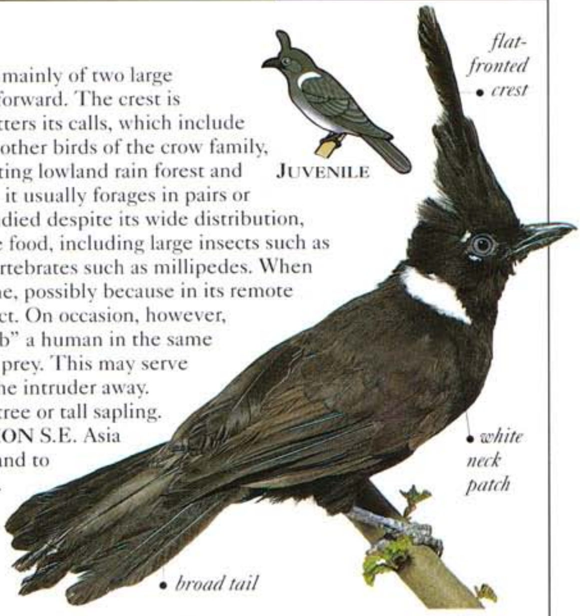
Plumage Sexes differ	Habitat 🌳	Migration Non-migrant

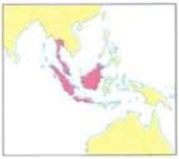
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Platylophus galericulatus*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

CRESTED JAY

The long crest of this jay is composed mainly of two large feathers with their flat surfaces facing forward. The crest is often flicked up and down as the jay utters its calls, which include whistles and harsh, rattling cries. Like other birds of the crow family, it lacks a loud advertising song. Inhabiting lowland rain forest and mountain forest up to 2,500 ft (800 m), it usually forages in pairs or small parties. Uncommon and little studied despite its wide distribution, the Crested Jay seems to take only live food, including large insects such as cockroaches and wasps, and other invertebrates such as millipedes. When approached, it is often surprisingly tame, possibly because in its remote habitat it is isolated from human contact. On occasion, however, Crested Jays have been known to "mob" a human in the same way that small birds will mob a bird of prey. This may serve to alert other birds as well as to drive the intruder away.

- **NEST** A solid twig nest placed in a tree or tall sapling.
- **DISTRIBUTION** S.E. Asia from S.W. Thailand to Borneo and Java.




DISTRIBUTION

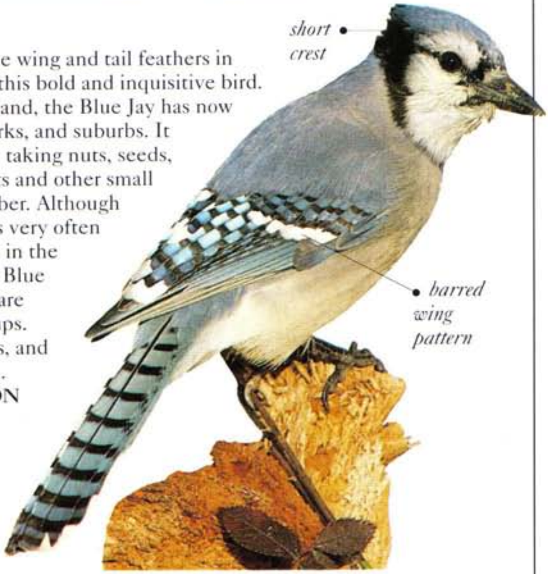
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

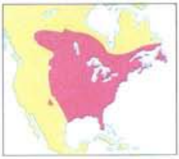
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Cyanocitta cristata*	Length 11 in (28 cm)

BLUE JAY

A harsh screech and a flash of bright blue wing and tail feathers in flight usually announce the presence of this bold and inquisitive bird. Originally inhabiting broadleaved woodland, the Blue Jay has now become common in farmland, towns, parks, and suburbs. It forages in vegetation and on the ground, taking nuts, seeds, berries, and other fruits, as well as insects and other small animals. It has a reputation as a nest robber. Although many individuals are migrants, Blue Jays very often store quantities of nuts by burying them in the ground or in crevices in trees. Migrating Blue Jays often travel in flocks, but the birds are more usually seen in pairs or family groups.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of twigs, grass, and stems, lined and placed in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. and C. North America.




DISTRIBUTION

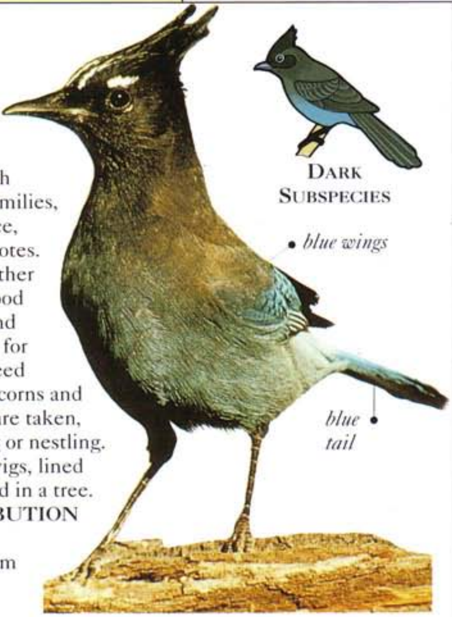
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 ▲ 🌳	Migration Partial migrant

Family CORVIDAE	Species *Cyanocitta stelleri*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

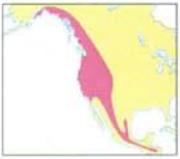
STELLER'S JAY

This shy, slender-crested jay inhabits wooded hillsides, preferring open woodland, either coniferous or mixed, and areas of scattered trees. Agile on the wing, it is adept at moving through branches and foliage, and crosses open spaces with rapid, level flight. It usually occurs in pairs and families, although larger groups gather at a good food source, calling with a range of screeches and softer, low notes. The song is soft and sweet. In common with all other birds of the crow family, Steller's Jay can clamp food to the perch with its foot and can hold an acorn and hammer it open with its bill. The bill is also used for digging, and for stripping loose bark. The birds feed mainly on nuts, seeds, and fruits, and they bury acorns and seeds for winter. Insects and other invertebrates are taken, as well as the occasional egg or nestling.

- **NEST** A bowl made of twigs, lined with fine rootlets, and placed in a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. North America from Alaska to Nicaragua.



DARK SUBSPECIES



DISTRIBUTION

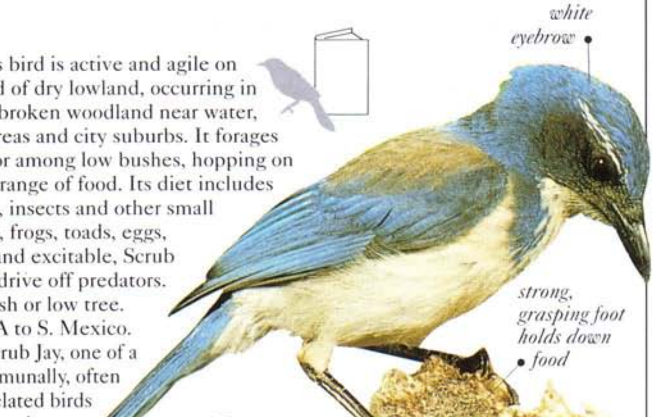
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

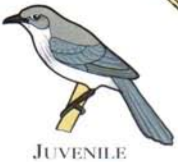
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Aphelocoma californica*	Length 11½ in (29 cm)

SCRUB JAY

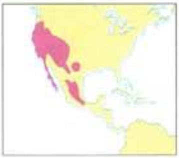
Although slow in flight, this bird is active and agile on the ground. Originally a bird of dry lowland, occurring in arid scrub, forest edge, and broken woodland near water, it has spread to cultivated areas and city suburbs. It forages in trees and on the ground or among low bushes, hopping on long legs and taking a wide range of food. Its diet includes nuts, seeds, and small fruits, insects and other small invertebrates, small reptiles, frogs, toads, eggs, nestlings, and mice. Noisy and excitable, Scrub Jays often gang together to drive off predators.

- **NEST** A cup nest in a bush or low tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. USA to S. Mexico.
- **REMARK** The Florida Scrub Jay, one of a number of jays that nest communally, often with related birds assisting the breeding pair, is a separate species.





JUVENILE

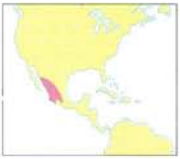


DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Non-migrant

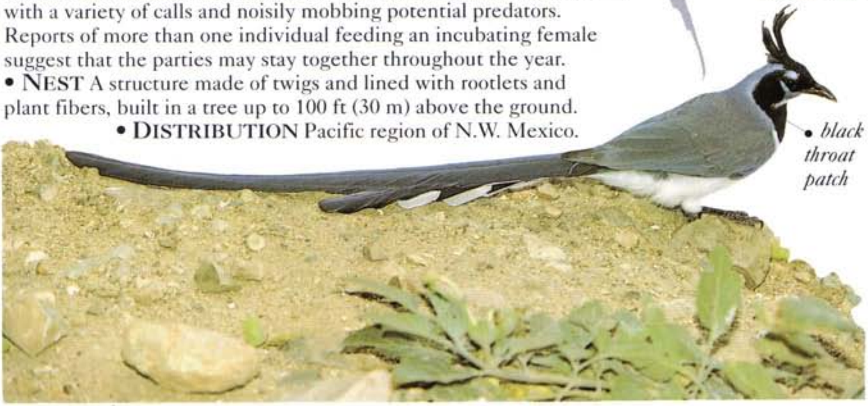
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Calocitta colliei*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

BLACK-THROATED MAGPIE-JAY


DISTRIBUTION

With its flamboyant, forward-arching crest and long, tapering tail, this species is exceptionally ornate for a jay. When the bird is excited, its crest rises up and extends forward until the tip hangs over the front of the bill. Typically found in open woodland on lower hill slopes and along rivers, it feeds mainly among the trees, taking insects and fruit such as berries. The birds forage in small parties, communicating with a variety of calls and noisily mobbing potential predators. Reports of more than one individual feeding an incubating female suggest that the parties may stay together throughout the year.

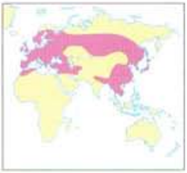
- **NEST** A structure made of twigs and lined with rootlets and plant fibers, built in a tree up to 100 ft (30 m) above the ground.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Pacific region of N.W. Mexico.



Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌊	Migration Non-migrant

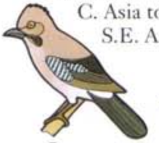
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Garrulus glandarius*	Length 14 in (35 cm)

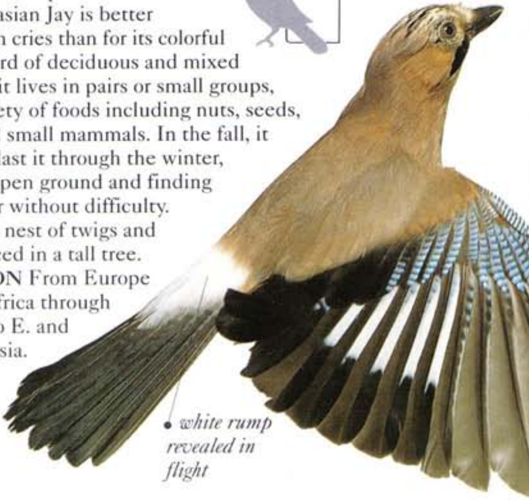
EURASIAN JAY


DISTRIBUTION

Often cautious and suspicious in its behavior, the Eurasian Jay is better known for its harsh cries than for its colorful plumage. It is a bird of deciduous and mixed woodland, where it lives in pairs or small groups, foraging for a variety of foods including nuts, seeds, fruits, insects, and small mammals. In the fall, it collects acorns to last it through the winter, burying them in open ground and finding them months later without difficulty.

- **NEST** A coarse nest of twigs and woody stems, placed in a tall tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Europe and N.W. Africa through C. Asia to E. and S.E. Asia.


INDIAN SUBSPECIES



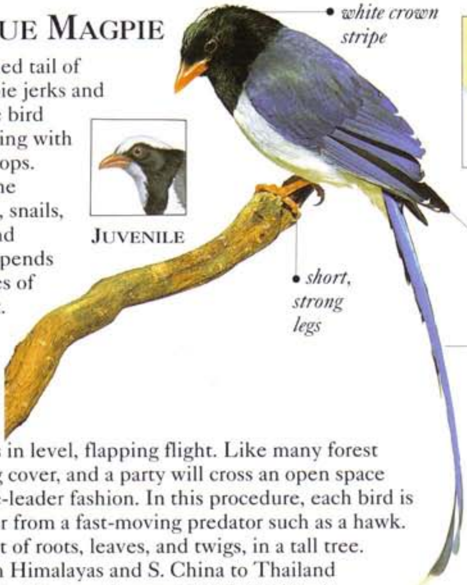
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌲 🌳 🌿	Migration Partial migrant

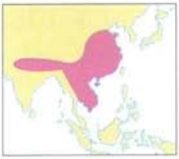
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*	Length 28 in (70 cm)

RED-BILLED BLUE MAGPIE

The slender, springy, arched tail of the Red-billed Blue Magpie jerks and flicks conspicuously as the bird moves across a forest clearing with typically long, bounding hops. The bird often hunts on the ground, taking centipedes, snails, small mammals, lizards, and even small snakes, but it spends most of its time in the trees of its mountain forest habitat. It forages in small parties for insects, eggs, forest fruits, and even nectar when the trees are in blossom. The Red-billed Blue Magpie moves in level, flapping flight. Like many forest birds it is wary of breaking cover, and a party will cross an open space one at a time in follow-the-leader fashion. In this procedure, each bird is probably testing for danger from a fast-moving predator such as a hawk.

- **NEST** A flimsy cup nest of roots, leaves, and twigs, in a tall tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** From Himalayas and S. China to Thailand and S. Vietnam, in forest at altitudes of up to 6,100 ft (2,100 m).


JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION

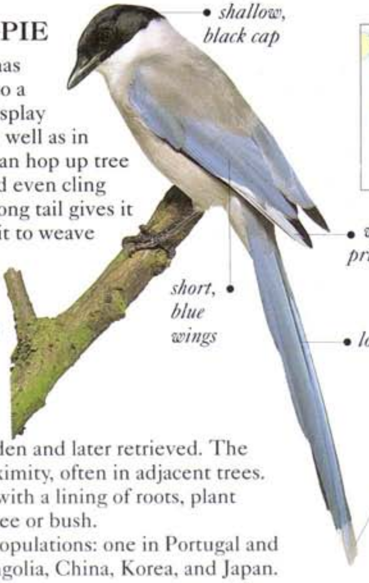
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳🌳 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

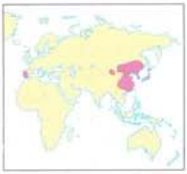
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Cyanopica cyana*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE

This small, graceful, forest magpie has a black cap that can be fluffed up into a crest. The bird raises this crest for display purposes. It is agile on the ground as well as in flight. Aided by fluttering wings, it can hop up tree trunks and other vertical surfaces and even cling upside down beneath branches. Its long tail gives it maneuverability in the air, enabling it to weave and dodge between the branches of trees. In the open, it usually flies low and level, sometimes swooping, with one bird following another from tree to tree. Azure-winged Magpies are sociable, living in small parties that forage together for insects and other small invertebrates, small fruits, and some seeds. Food items may be hidden and later retrieved. The pairs in each group nest in close proximity, often in adjacent trees.

- **NEST** A cup nest made of twigs, with a lining of roots, plant fibers, hair, and wool, situated in a tree or bush.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Two separate populations: one in Portugal and S. Spain; the other in E. Asia in Mongolia, China, Korea, and Japan.

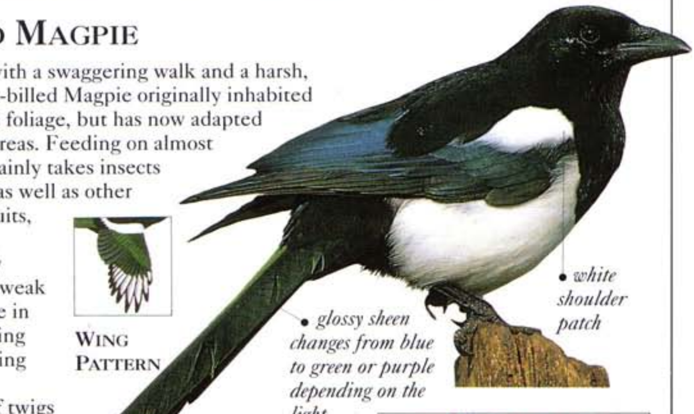



DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant

Family CORVIDAE	Species *Pica pica*	Length 19 in (48 cm)

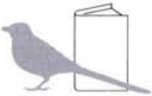
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

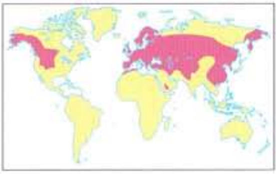


WING PATTERN
glossy sheen changes from blue to green or purple depending on the light
white shoulder patch
long tail tapers at the tip

Active and inquisitive, with a swaggering walk and a harsh, chattering call, the Black-billed Magpie originally inhabited scrub or trees with dense foliage, but has now adapted to cultivated and urban areas. Feeding on almost anything it can find, it mainly takes insects and other invertebrates, as well as other small animals, carrion, fruits, and seeds. Its reputation as a nest robber is greatly exaggerated. Despite its weak flight it can be quite agile in the air, its long tail enabling it to make sudden attacking or evading movements.

- **NEST** A bowl made of twigs and lined with fine rootlets and some mud, roofed with a loose dome of twigs, built in a bush or tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** N.W. North America, Europe, N.W. Africa, parts of the Middle East, and much of C. and E. Asia.



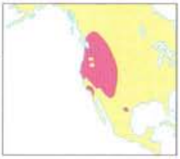


DISTRIBUTION

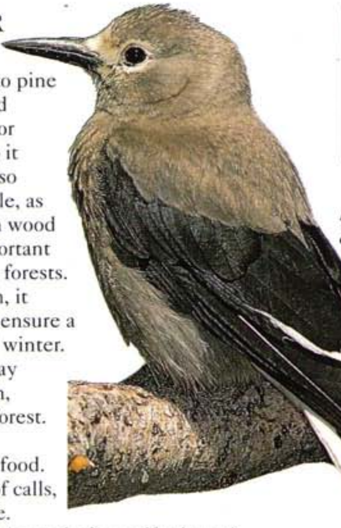
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌳 🌿 ▁	Migration Non-migrant

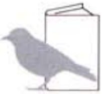
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Nucifraga columbiana*	Length 12 in (30 cm)

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER



DISTRIBUTION





The slender, slightly downcurved bill of this species is adapted for probing into pine cones and extracting the seeds. The bird either breaks into the cone on the tree, or pulls the whole cone off and delves into it while holding it down with its foot. It also eats other seeds and fruits when available, as well as robbing nests and probing rotten wood for insects. Pine seeds are the most important food item in its native mountain conifer forests. After collecting seeds in its throat pouch, it carries them to special hoarding sites to ensure a food supply throughout the snowbound winter. If the seed crop fails, the nutcrackers may be forced to make an irruptive migration, appearing in large numbers in lowland forest. Each pair normally lives within its own territory, but also searches outside it for food. The birds communicate with a variety of calls, the commonest being a single, loud note.

- **NEST** A cup nest of twigs, usually at the end of a conifer branch.
- **DISTRIBUTION** W. North America from S. Canada to N. Mexico.

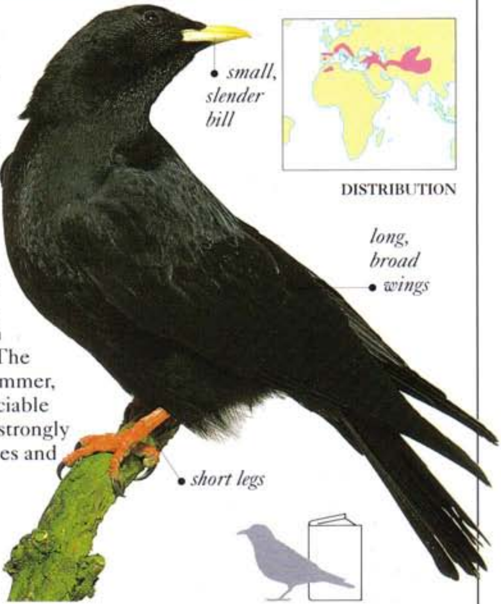
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat 🌲 🌳 ▲	Migration Non-migrant/nomadic

Family CORVIDAE	Species *Pyrrhocorax graculus*	Length 15 in (38 cm)

ALPINE CHOUGH

The broad wings of the Alpine Chough, with their splayed, fingerlike tips, enable it to fly strongly and skillfully in turbulent mountain winds. Here it soars and glides on air currents and performs aerobatic flights. With its small head, slender bill, and high pitched, trilling whistle, it is unlike most other members of the crow family. On the ground it walks and runs actively on short legs, probing in rock crevices and open pastures. Although it feeds mainly on insects, snails, and fruit, it will also scavenge on small animal carcasses and search for scraps at garbage dumps and picnic sites. The Alpine Chough inhabits high mountains in summer, descending to lowlands in winter. A highly sociable species, it lives in flocks composed mainly of strongly bonded pairs. Flocks roost communally in caves and large crevices, and the pairs often nest in the same sites, though some distance apart.

- **NEST** A mass of sticks and dry roots, either in a large crevice or on a cave ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Spain and N.W. Africa through S. Europe and Middle East to Asia.



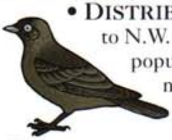
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲	Migration Non-migrant

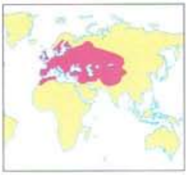
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Corvus monedula*	Length 13 in (33 cm)

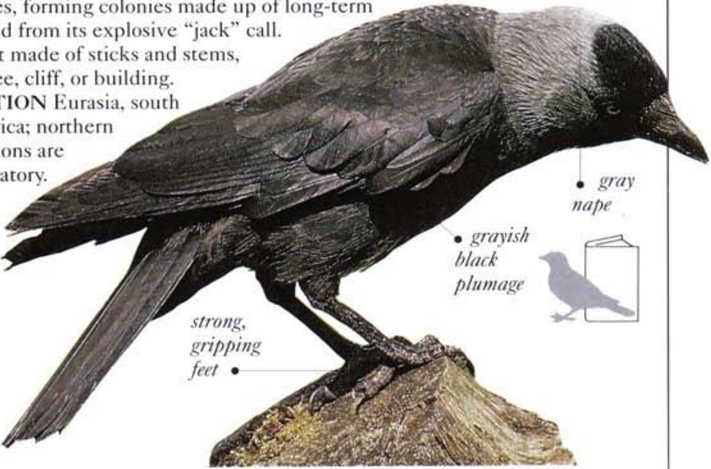
EURASIAN JACKDAW

Sociable, noisy, and confident, this small, bright-eyed crow is a grassland feeder that probes for insects and worms as well as taking fruit and carrion. It has adapted well to farmland, and also uses buildings as nest sites, forming colonies made up of long-term pairs. The name is derived from its explosive "jack" call.

- **NEST** A lined cup nest made of sticks and stems, placed in a cavity in a tree, cliff, or building.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia, south to N.W. Africa; northern populations are migratory.


JUVENILE


DISTRIBUTION



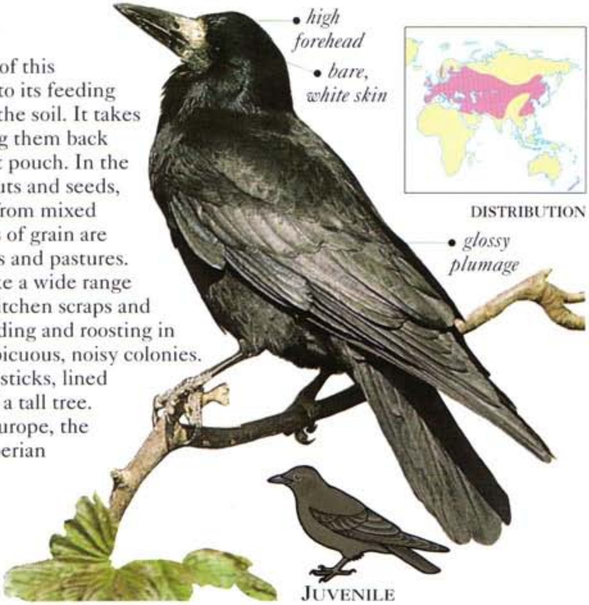
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

Family CORVIDAE	Species *Corvus frugilegus*	Length 18½ in (47 cm)

ROOK

The tapering bill and bare face of this heavy-bodied crow are adapted to its feeding technique of probing deep into the soil. It takes insect larvae and worms, carrying them back to the nest in a prominent throat pouch. In the fall, the Rook tends to turn to nuts and seeds, including grain, and it benefits from mixed farming methods in which fields of grain are grown alongside grassy meadows and pastures. Like most other crows it will take a wide range of alternative foods, including kitchen scraps and carrion. It is highly sociable, feeding and roosting in large flocks and nesting in conspicuous, noisy colonies.

- **NEST** An untidy structure of sticks, lined with finer material, in the top of a tall tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of Europe, the Middle East, C. and E. Asia. Siberian populations winter as far south as S. Iran, N. India, S. China. Introduced in New Zealand.



DISTRIBUTION

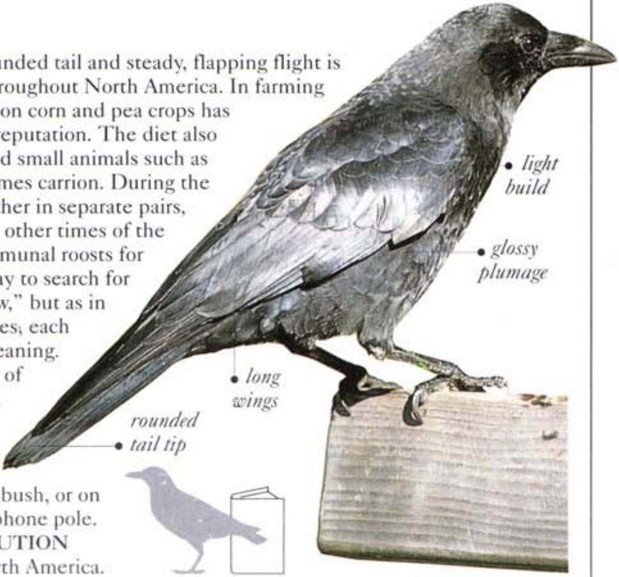
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

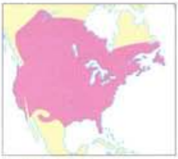
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Length 17½ in (45 cm)

AMERICAN CROW

This glossy black bird with its rounded tail and steady, flapping flight is a familiar sight in open country throughout North America. In farming areas its habit of feeding in flocks on corn and pea crops has earned the American Crow a bad reputation. The diet also includes nuts and fruit, insects, and small animals such as young birds and mice, and sometimes carrion. During the breeding season, the birds nest either in separate pairs, or sometimes in small colonies. At other times of the year, they congregate in large communal roosts for the night, dispersing during the day to search for food. The usual call is a harsh "caw," but as in other birds there are other call notes, each one used to convey a particular meaning.

- **NEST** A large, cup-shaped nest of sticks, with a soft lining of finer plant material, in a tree or a bush, or on top of a telephone pole.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Much of North America.





DISTRIBUTION

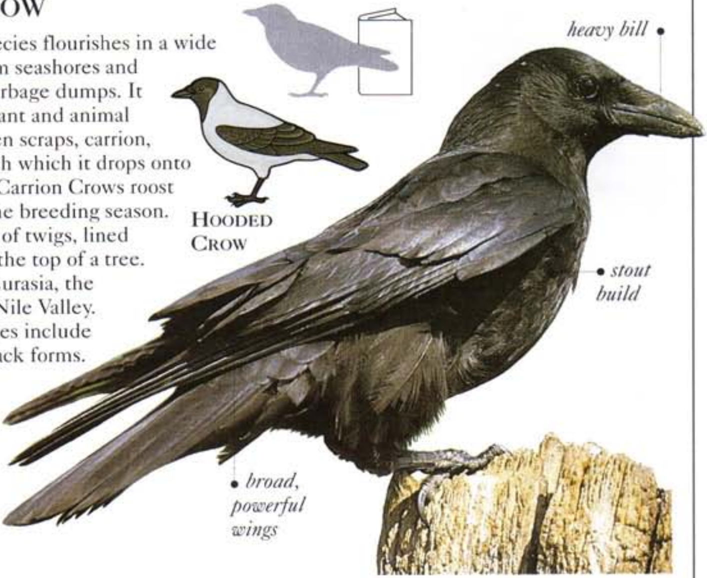
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat	Migration Partial migrant

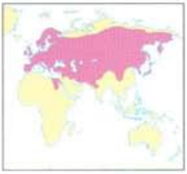
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Corvus corone*	Length 18½ in (47 cm)

CARRION CROW

This opportunistic species flourishes in a wide variety of habitats, from seashores and forests to towns and garbage dumps. It eats a huge range of plant and animal foods, including kitchen scraps, carrion, and sometimes shellfish which it drops onto stones to break them. Carrion Crows roost communally outside the breeding season.

- **NEST** A bulky nest of twigs, lined with finer material, in the top of a tree.
- **DISTRIBUTION** Eurasia, the Middle East, and the Nile Valley.
- **REMARK** Subspecies include both "hooded" and black forms.





DISTRIBUTION

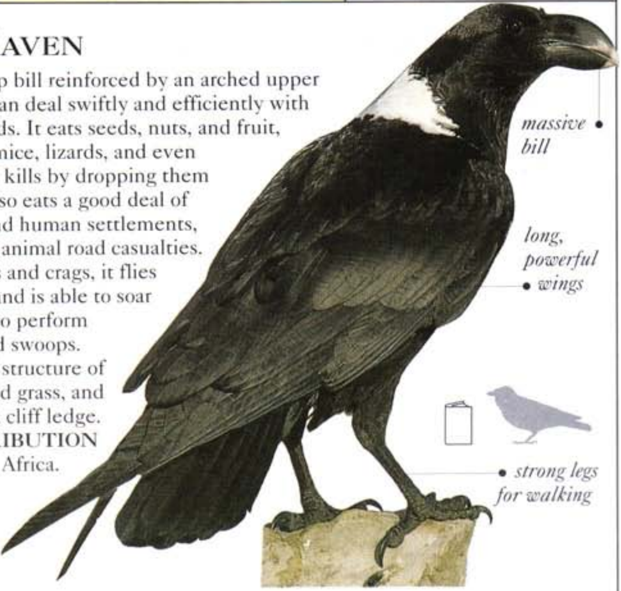
Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ≋ ▁ ▲ ♣	Migration Partial migrant

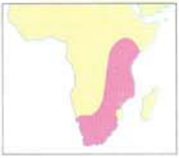
Family CORVIDAE	Species *Corvus albicollis*	Length 22 in (55 cm)

WHITE-NECKED RAVEN

Equipped with a massive, deep bill reinforced by an arched upper ridge, this big, powerful crow can deal swiftly and efficiently with virtually any type of food it finds. It eats seeds, nuts, and fruit, as well as insects, small birds, mice, lizards, and even tortoises, which it smashes and kills by dropping them onto rocky ground. The bird also eats a good deal of carrion, often scavenging around human settlements, where it can be seen tearing at animal road casualties. Occurring mainly in mountains and crags, it flies strongly with slow wingbeats, and is able to soar with ease on the updrafts and to perform breathtaking aerobatic rolls and swoops.

- **NEST** A large, bowl-shaped structure of sticks, lined with wool, hair, and grass, and sited on a cliff ledge.
- **DISTRIBUTION** E. and S. Africa.





DISTRIBUTION

Plumage Sexes alike	Habitat ▲ ▲	Migration Non-migrant

GLOSSARY

A NUMBER OF the words used in this book may be unfamiliar to some readers. This glossary explains specialist terms both clearly and concisely. Most words defined in the glossary are the names of types of birds. Some of these types are bird families, and the scientific name of the family is given in brackets, with an equals sign, e.g. "(= family Anatidae)." Other types are only "parts" of families. In these cases, the family is mentioned either in English in the course of the definition, in bold type, e.g. "a type of **falcon**," or in brackets at the end, e.g. "(part of family Laridae)." All words that appear in **bold** type are defined elsewhere in the glossary.

• ACCENTOR
A type of sparrowlike bird with a thin, finely pointed bill (= family Prunellidae).

• ADAPTATION
Any aspect of a bird's structure or behavior that has evolved to suit its present environment.

• ADVERTISEMENT
Display behavior by which a bird signals its presence to other birds.

• ALBATROSS
A type of oceangoing seabird that glides for great distances on long, narrow wings, nesting on islands (= family Diomedeidae).

• ANHINGA
Name for the North American species of **darter**; alternatively used as a name for all three darter species in the world.

• ANTBIRD
A type of rain forest passerine that feeds on the insects and other invertebrates that become easy to catch when fleeing from army ants (= family Formicariidae).

• AUK
A type of **penguin**like seabird that is able to fly and typically hunts under water, propelling itself with its wings rather than its feet (= family Alcidae).

• BABBLER
A type of short-winged, strong-footed passerine of forest or scrub, often occurring in small, noisy groups (= family Timaliidae).

• BARBET
A type of small, sturdy, perching non-passerine with a stout bill, living in trees or bushes (= family Megalaimidae).

• BARN OWL
A type of long-legged **owl** in which the **facial disks** form a heart shape (= family Tytonidae).

• BELLBIRD
A type of forest-dwelling bird with loud, bell-like calls; refers to a number of species in the **cotinga** and **honeyeater** families.

• BIRD-OF-PARADISE
A type of forest-dwelling passerine in which the male has strikingly ornate and sometimes extraordinary display plumage (= family Paradisaeidae).

• BIRD OF PREY
A hunting bird; most commonly refers to the day-flying **raptors**, but sometimes refers to all birds hunting land prey of any size larger than insects, thus including **owls**, **skuas**, and **shrikes**. This phrase generally tends not to be used to describe insect-eating and fish-eating birds.

• BLACKBIRD
A type of medium-size passerine which is either all black or mostly black; refers to a few species of Old World **thrushes** and several **New World blackbirds**.

• BOWERBIRD
A type of forest-dwelling passerine in which males build elaborate twig bowers to which they attract females for mating (= family Ptilonorhynchidae).

• BROADBILL
A type of forest-dwelling passerine with a sturdy body, a wide mouth, and a wide bill (= family Eurylaimidae).

• BULBUL
A type of passerine that feeds mainly on fruit, and has musical calls (= family Pycnonotidae).

• BUNTING
A type of sparrowlike bird with a short, sturdy bill for cracking open husks to feed on seeds (part of family Emberizidae).

• BUSTARD
A type of open-country bird of up to **goose** size with long, strong legs and small feet, and a long neck (= family Otididae).

• BUTCHERBIRD
A type of passerine bird of trees and shrubs that hunts prey with a strong, hooked bill, and either impales it on thorns or wedges it between twigs to feed (= family Cracticidae). Previously also referred to some typical **shrikes**.

• BUTTON-QUAIL
A type of ground bird the size and shape of a **quail** , but with a slender bill (= family Turnicidae).

• BUZZARD
A type of broad-winged **bird of prey** that hunts animals and scavenges for **carrion** (part of family Accipitridae).

• CALL
A short sound used by a bird purely to convey information, as distinct from **song**.

• CARACARA
A type of **falcon** that feeds on helpless or slow-moving prey, or scavenges for **carrion**.

• CARDINAL
A type of finchlike bird, often brightly colored, with a heavy, seed-eating type of bill (part of family Emberizidae).

• CARRION
Carcasses or parts of dead animals eaten by birds (or other carrion-eaters) that have not killed them.

• CASQUE
A hard, hornlike feature that projects upward from the head or bill of a bird.

• CATBIRD
This name is given to birds of various different families that utter sounds like the mew of a cat,

e.g. Gray Catbird (part of family Mimidae), Green Catbird (part of family Ptilonorhynchidae).

• CHANTING-GOSHAWK
A slenderly built **bird of prey** of open country, not particularly resembling a **goshawk**.

• CHAT
(i) A type of small **thrush** that typically watches from a low perch or from the ground before swooping on small invertebrates (part of family Turdidae). (ii) A species of American **warbler** (part of family Parulidae).

• CHICKADEE
Alternative word for **tit**.

• CLUTCH
The total quantity of eggs incubated by one parent or pair of birds at a time.

• COCKATOO
A large and usually crested type of Australasian **parrot**.

• COLONY
A group of pairs of birds that nest in close proximity to each other, or the place in which this occurs.

• COLOR PHASE
A type of plumage color that distinguishes a bird from others of the same **species**, is not related to sex, age, or **subspecies**, and is not a genetic abnormality (mutation).

• CONDOR
A type of **New World vulture**.

• CONURE
A popular name sometimes used to refer to some species of South American **parrot**.

• CONTOUR FEATHER
A small feather that provides protective cover to the body or wing of a bird.

• CORMORANT
A type of slenderly built, web-footed **waterbird** that swims and chases fish under water (= family Phalacrocoracidae).

• COTINGA
A type of rain forest passerine, often with display ornaments including **wattles**, bare skin patches, and vividly colored or unusually shaped feathers (= family Cotingidae).

• COUCAL
A type of slim-built, nonparasitic **cuckoo** with weak flight, that **skulks** in vegetation and runs on the ground.

• COURSER
A type of fast-running **shorebird** with long legs and small feet, living in dry, open landscapes (part of family Glareolidae).

• COVERTS
Contour feathers of the wings and above and below the base of the tail, some overlapping the bases of larger **flight feathers**.

• COVEY
A small group of **gamebirds**.

• CRAKE
A type of small **rail**, usually living in swamp or grassland vegetation.

• CRANE
A type of tall non-passerine with long neck and legs, and a sharp but relatively short bill, occurring in open landscapes, often by water (= family Gruidae).

• CREEPER
A type of passerine that hunts insects by climbing up the trunks and branches of trees (= families Certhiidae, Rhabdornithidae, Climacteridae).

• CROW
A type of large passerine, typically black, that often feeds on the ground; alternatively refers to all the birds of the crow family (part or whole of family Corvidae).

• CUCKOO
A type of slenderly built, insect-eating non-passerine, living in trees or bushes, or on the ground; many species of cuckoo are nest parasites (= Cuculidae).

• CURASSOW
A type of large, long-tailed, long-legged forest bird resembling a **gamebird**, often perching in trees (part of family Cracidae).

• CURRAWONG
A type of large-billed, **crow**like passerine (part of Cracticidae).

• DABBLING DUCK
A type of **duck** that feeds by filtering food particles from the water with its bill.

• DARTER
A type of **waterbird** with a long, snakelike neck, a thin, dagger-like bill, and webbed feet, that swims underwater to catch fish (= family Anhingidae).

• DISPLAY
Conspicuous behavior by which a bird indicates feelings, such as sexual or aggressive excitement.

• DISTRIBUTION
The total area in which a bird is regularly seen. In this book, distribution maps include areas where the bird has been introduced by humans.

• DIVER
A type of fish-eating **waterbird** with legs positioned well back on the body for underwater pursuit of prey; known as **loons** in North America (= family Gaviidae).

• DIVING DUCK
A type of **duck** that finds food by swimming underwater, propelling itself with webbed feet.

• DIVING-PETREL
A type of seabird like a **petrel** that feeds on **plankton** by diving, often plunging through waves (= family Pelecanoididae).

• DOMESTICATED
A bird bred in captive or farm conditions to produce a type that is useful, decorative, or otherwise desirable to humans.

• DOVE
Alternative name for some (often smaller) species of **pigeon**.

• DOWN
A loose-textured feather structure, occurring either as whole feathers or as parts of feathers, that helps insulate the body and retain heat.

• DRONGO
A type of strong-billed, long-tailed, alert passerine, usually black, that hunts insects from a perch (= family Dicruridae).

• DUCK
A type of **waterfowl** that spends most of its time on water rather than on land and typically has a broad, flattened bill for extracting food from water or mud.

• EAGLE
A type of large, strong **bird of prey** that actively hunts other animals (part of family Accipitridae).

• ECLIPSE PLUMAGE
A camouflage plumage briefly assumed by a male after molting out of its vivid breeding plumage.

• EGRET
A slenderly built type of **heron** that is often pure white and often has fine, loose-textured display plumes when breeding.

• EURASIA
The landmass comprising the continents of Europe and Asia and adjacent islands.

• EYE RING
A narrow and distinctively colored ring, either of feathers or bare skin, around the eye.

• EYE STRIPE
A distinctly colored stripe that passes across the side of the head including the area of the eye.

• FACIAL DISKS
The two prominent, roughly semicircular shapes made by the feathers on either side of the eyes of most **owl** species.

• FAIRY-WREN
A type of small passerine of Australasia with a long tail that is usually carried upright (= family Maluridae).

• FALCON
A stoutly built **bird of prey** with tapering wings and a short, strongly-curved bill (= family Falconidae).

• FANTAIL
A type of flycatcher of forest or scrub, often hunting insects in foliage, fanning and raising its tail (part of family Monarchidae).

• FINCH
A type of sparrowlike bird with a short, stout bill used for cracking seeds (= family Fringillidae); alternatively refers to similar birds of other families, e.g. **waxbills**.

• FLAMINGO
A type of wading bird of saline waters with very long legs, wings, and neck, and a short, broad, angled bill used for filtering fine food particles (= family Phoenicopteridae).

• FLIGHT FEATHERS
Large, long feathers of wings and tail, used in flight.

• FLOCK
A group of birds remaining together for social reasons.

• FLYCATCHER
A type of passerine that typically catches aerial prey by flying out from a perch, to which it then returns (= families Monarchidae, Muscicapidae, and Tyrannidae).

• FORAGE
To search for food of any kind by hunting over an area.

• FORM
A variant of a **species**. This word can refer to (i) a type clearly identifiable as a **subspecies**; (ii) a broader regional type comprising two or more **subspecies**; or (iii) a **color phase**.

• FRANCOLIN
A type of **gamebird** resembling a **partridge**, usually feeding on the ground and living in open country (part of family Phasianidae).

• FROGMOUTH
A type of nocturnal, perching non-passerine with a short, wide bill and huge gape, swooping down to the ground to snatch prey (= family Podargidae).

• FRUIT-DOVE
Another name for a **fruit-pigeon**.

• FRUIT-PIGEON
A type of **pigeon** living in trees or shrubs and feeding mainly on fruit taken from the branches.

• FRUITCROW
A type of crowlike, fruit-eating **cotinga** showing patches of bright plumage color.

• GAMEBIRD
Any bird of the **pheasant** family; these are often hunted for food or sport (= family Phasianidae).

• GENUS
A group of closely related **species** that have all evolved from the same ancestor (plural is "genera").

• GLEANING
Randomly searching for and picking up food items.

• GLOSSY STARLING
A type of **starling** with shiny and often brightly colored feathers.

• GNATCATCHER
A type of small, slender passerine with a thin bill and long tail, that hunts insects in trees and bushes (= family Polioptilidae).

• GODWIT
A type of **shorebird** with a long, thin bill, which may be either straight or slightly upcurved (part of family Scolopacidae).

• GOOSE
A type of **waterfowl** with relatively long legs and a short, strong bill, adapted for walking, grazing, and digging for roots.

• GOSHAWK
A type of large, forest-dwelling **hawk** with broad, rounded wings and a long tail.

• GRACKLE
(i) A type of glossy-plumaged **New World blackbird** with a slim, tapering bill and a long tail. (ii) Also describes certain species of **myna** and **starling**.

• GRASSLAND
Open areas where vegetation is dominated by short or tall grasses.

• GREBE
A type of thin-necked, fine-billed **waterbird** that is almost tailless and feeds by pursuing underwater prey, propelled by feet with lobed toes (= family Podicipedidae).

• GREEN-PIGEON
A type of fruit-eating **pigeon** with green plumage for camouflage, living among trees and shrubs.

• GROSBEAK
A finchlike bird with a very stout, seed-cracking bill. Refers to some birds in the **finch** family (Fringillidae) and some **cardinals** (part of family Emberizidae).

• GROUSE
A type of stout, mainly ground-dwelling **gamebird** with dense feathering.

• GUAN
A type of tree-dwelling bird that resembles a **gamebird**, with long, strong legs and often with bare **wattles** (part of Cracidae).

• GUINEAFOWL
A type of compactly built **gamebird** with a short tail, living mainly on dry, open ground.

• GULL
A type of web-footed **waterbird**, often coastal, with a strong bill; scavenging or partly predatory (part of family Laridae).

• HABITAT
The part of the environment in which a species normally occurs.

• HARRIER
A type of **bird of prey** with long, narrow wings used in low, gliding flight, and with long legs and tail (part of family Accipitridae).

• HAWK
A type of **bird of prey** that actively hunts live animals (part of family Accipitridae).

• HAWK-OWL
(i) A type of **owl** with a hawklike shape. (ii) Alternatively a type of Australasian **owl** with small **facial disks** and a relatively prominent bill (parts of family Strigidae).

• HELPER
A bird other than the parents that assists in some stages of nesting.

• HEMIPODE
An old name for a **button-quail**, meaning "half-foot" in reference to the absence of a hind toe (= family Turnicidae).

• HERMIT
A type of **hummingbird** living solitarily among forest vegetation.

• HERON
A type of wading bird with long legs, long neck, broad wings, and a dagger bill, usually wading to catch fish (= family Ardeidae).

• HONEYCREEPER
(i) A type of **tanager** with a slender bill for extracting nectar from flowers (part of family Thraupidae). (ii) A type of finch-like bird belonging to an island

group with varied bill shapes (= family Drepaninidae).

• HONEYEATER
A type of small to moderate-size passerine with a brush-tipped tongue, feeding mostly on nectar from flowers, sometimes also on insects (= family Meliphagidae).

• HONEYGUIDE
A type of small, perching non-passerine that feeds by catching insects in the foliage and eating wax, brood, and honey from bees' nests (= family Indicatoridae).

• HOOD
An area of a single plumage color extending over the head.

• HORNBILL
A type of non-passerine with long tail and enormous, downcurved bill that is usually surmounted by a **casque**. Some hornbills are tree dwellers (= family Bucerotidae); others feed only on the ground (= family Bucorvidae).

• HUMMINGBIRD
A type of tiny, often brightly colored non-passerine with a thin bill used for feeding on flower nectar, often while hovering (= family Trochilidae).

• IBIS
A type of goose-size wading bird with long legs and neck and a long, downcurved bill (part of family Threskiornithidae).

• IMMATURE
Alternative word for a **juvenile**.

• IMPERIAL PIGEON
A large and often dull-colored type of **fruit-pigeon**.

• INCUBATE
To provide constant warmth for an egg, allowing the embryo inside it to develop.

• INTRODUCED
Describes a bird species that has been brought by humans to an area where it would not naturally occur, and is now established.

• INVERTEBRATE
A type of small animal having no backbone, such as a worm, insect, spider, snail, shrimp, or crab.

• IRIDESCENT
A term describing the glittering appearance of a feather that has a structure that causes it to reflect different colors according to the direction of the light.

• JACAMAR
A type of slender, long-tailed, perching non-passerine with a long, thin bill, that flies out from a perch after insects (= family Galbulidae).

• JACANA
A type of small **waterbird** with long legs, toes and claws, that walks on floating waterplants (= family Jacanidae).

• JAY
A type of perching passerine of the **crow** family, usually noisy and brightly colored and often sociable in behavior.

• JUVENILE
(i) A young bird that is not yet mature enough to breed, often having a plumage differing in color and pattern from adults. (ii) Alternatively (but not in this book) used to describe a young bird that is not yet independent from its parents, and is usually less than three months old.

• KESTREL
A type of sturdily built **falcon** that usually hovers when hunting and takes small, weak prey.

• KINGBIRD
A type of **tyrant flycatcher**, often aggressive enough to harry predators.

• KINGFISHER
A type of large-headed, dagger-billed, perching non-passerine that plunge-dives into water in pursuit of insects or fish, some species taking prey from the ground (= family Alcedinidae).

• KITE
A type of lightly built **bird of prey** with long wings and often forked tail, and with agile flight, that typically takes weak prey or scavenges for **carrion** (part of family Accipitridae).

• KOOKABURRA
A type of large **kingfisher** with noisy calls and a heavy, blunt bill, often living far away from water.

• LARK
A type of inconspicuous, ground-dwelling passerine, the male bird usually advertising itself with prolonged aerial songflights (= family Alaudidae).

• LAUGHING THRUSH
A type of **babbler** that utters laughing calls, often in chorus.

• LEK
A communal display site used by certain bird species. A number of males display simultaneously and females visit the site in order to mate with a male. The lek may be on the ground or in a tree.

• LOON
The North American and Scandinavian name for a **diver**.

• LORIKEET
A type of Australasian **parrot** feeding on nectar and pollen.

• LORY
A heavily built type of **lorikeet**.

• LOVEBIRD
A type of small, slender-billed, short-tailed African **parrot**, usually seen in pairs that keep in close contact with one another.

• MACAW
A type of South or Central American **parrot** with a long tail and heavy bill, the best known species being distinctively large.

• MALLEE
Low-growing eucalyptus woodland of semi-arid areas, in which trees are multi-trunked.

• MANAKIN
A type of small, brightly colored, fruit-eating passerine of forest and scrub (= family Pipridae).

• MANGROVE SWAMP
A forest habitat in tropical estuaries and lagoons, in which the trees are supported on roots raised above the mud.

• MARTIN
Alternative name for some species of **swallow**.

• MEGAPODE
A type of chicken-size ground-bird that builds a mound in which its eggs are incubated, or digs a hole in warm ground for this purpose (= family Megapodiidae).

• MIGRANT
A bird that makes regular seasonal movements between breeding and nonbreeding areas.

• MIMICRY
The ability of a bird to imitate sounds it hears, such as the songs and calls of other bird species, or occasionally other sounds, including the human voice.

• MINER
A type of moderate-size, sociable **honeyeater**.

• MOBBING
Noisy calling and mock attacks carried out by a group of birds against a predator, making the presence of the predator known to other birds in the area.

• MONARCH FLYCATCHER
A type of **flycatcher**, often with bright colors, occurring in Africa, Asia, or Australasia, often in the tropics (= family Monarchidae).

• MOTMOT
A type of tropical forest non-passerine with a long, often racket-shaped tail and a long, strong bill, that perches and swoops on small prey (= family Momotidae).

• MOUSEBIRD
A type of small, plump, mouse-colored non-passerine with a long tail, mainly eating leaves and buds (= family Coliidae).

• MUDFLATS
Level areas of mud created by tidal movements on coasts, in bays, and bordering large rivers.

• MYNA
A type of **starling** with a heavy build and a stout bill.

• NECTAR
A sugar solution found in small amounts inside flowers.

• NESTLING
A very young bird that needs to remain in a nest and to be tended by adults.

• NEW WORLD BLACKBIRD
Refers to the varied passerine family to which the American blackbirds belong; the family is also sometimes known as the **troupials** and sometimes as the icterids (= family Icteridae).

• NEW WORLD VULTURE
A type of large, bare-headed scavenging bird of the Americas (= family Cathartidae).

• NIGHTHAWK
An American type of **nightjar** often flying in daylight. Like other nightjars, it resembles a **hawk** or **falcon** in outline.

• NIGHTJAR
A type of non-passerine, usually night-flying, with long wings and tail and a very wide mouth, feeding on insects caught in flight (= family Caprimulgidae).

• NODDY
A type of dark sea **tern** with a pale forehead that paired birds show to one another in mutual nodding displays at the nest.

• NOMADIC
Having a tendency to wander unpredictably.

• NON-PASSERINE
A bird species other than those that constitute the passerine order of mainly perching songbirds (*see also p. 38*).

• NUNBIRD
A type of dark, sluggish non-passerine living in forests, that perches and flies out after insects (part of family Galbulidae).

• NUTHATCH
A type of strong-footed, small passerine with a short, strong bill that climbs tree trunks and branches for food and hammers open nuts (= family Sittidae).

• OLD WORLD FLYCATCHER
A small **flycatcher** of Eurasia or Africa (= family Muscicapidae).

• OPEN FOREST
Forest in which trees and undergrowth are well spread, with spaces between allowing visibility and movement.

• ORIOLE
A type of agile, slender-billed passerine of the higher foliage of trees and scrub, feeding on fruit and insects. Refers both to Old World orioles (= family Oriolidae) and New World orioles (part of family Icteridae).

• OROPENDOLA
A type of large passerine of tropical forests with a strong, tapering bill, that weaves a long, bag-shaped nest and suspends it from branches of tall trees in colonies (part of family Icteridae).

• OVENBIRD
A bird that makes a domed nest with a side entrance resembling an old-fashioned bread oven. Only one species is known as the Ovenbird (part of family Parulidae). Seven species make ovenlike mud nests, and the family to which they belong is known as the ovenbird family (= Furnariidae), although these seven species are themselves known as horneros, rather than ovenbirds.

• OWL
A type of predatory bird, usually flying at night, with large eyes set in **facial disks**, strong, grasping feet and claws, and usually silent flight (= families Tytonidae and Strigidae).

• OWLET-NIGHTJAR
A type of soft-plumaged non-passerine with a large head, large eyes, and a small bill but a very broad mouth, swooping down onto prey from a perch (= family Aegothelidae).

• PARADISE-FLYCATCHER
A type of **monarch flycatcher** in which the male has a very long, slender, forked tail.

• PARAKEET
Alternative name for a small, long-tailed **parrot**.

• PARDALOTE
A type of small, stubby-billed passerine that hunts insects in tree foliage (part of Dicaeidae).

• PARROT
A type of non-passerine bird with strong feet for grasping and holding, and with a strong, short, deep bill with a hooked tip, that can manipulate and split open food items (= family Psittacidae).

• PARROTBILL
A type of small passerine with a short, stout bill for extracting insects from reed or bamboo stems (= family Panuridae).

• PARROTLET
A type of very small, short-tailed **parrot** of South American forests.

• PARTRIDGE
A type of stoutly built, ground-dwelling **gamebird** with a short tail and rounded wings.

• PARTY
A small group of individual birds.

• PASSERINE
A bird belonging to the passerine order of usually perching songbirds (*see also p. 244*).

• PELICAN
A type of heavily built **waterbird** with a long bill and an expandable skin pouch hanging from the bill and throat (= family Pelecanidae).

• PENGUIN
A type of flightless seabird with short legs set well back on the body, hunting underwater by swimming with narrow, flipper-like wings, and walking upright when on land (= family Spheniscidae).

• PEPPERSHRIKE
A type of heavily built **vireo** with a stout, hook-tipped bill.

• PERCHING BIRD
A bird with feet adapted for grasping the more level twigs and branches in order to stand or rest, usually living mainly in trees or shrubs. A perching bird is not necessarily a **passerine**.

• PETREL
A type of oceanic seabird with nostrils in the form of tubes lying along the top of the bill, with long, narrow wings and fast flight, usually feeding by taking small creatures from or just under the sea surface (part of family Procellariidae).

• PEWEE
A type of small, drab-looking **tyrant flycatcher** named after the sound of its usual song.

• PHASE
Another word for **color phase**.

• PHOEBE
A type of **tyrant flycatcher** named after its "fee-bee" call.

• PICULET
A type of tiny **woodpecker**.

• PIGEON
A type of non-passerine with thick, soft plumage, a small, rounded head, fleshy nostrils, and cooing calls. Some are perching birds and others are ground birds, usually walking with rapid steps (= family Columbidae).

• PILEATED
Refers to a bird in which the feathers of the whole top of the head form a crest.

• PIPIT
A type of small, inconspicuously colored, mainly ground-dwelling passerine with a slender, insect-eating bill, usually walking and running but not hopping (part of family Motacillidae).

• PITTA
A type of forest-floor passerine with a large head, round body, very short tail, and long legs (= family Pittidae).

• PLANKTON
A varied community of animals and plants, mostly microscopically small, swimming or suspended in seawater or lakes.

• PLOVER
A type of **shorebird** with a rounded head and relatively short bill. Plovers typically feed in open places by making short runs and snatching up small prey that is visible on the ground surface (= family Charadriidae).

• PRATINCOLE
A type of **shorebird** with a short, broad bill, large eyes, and often a forked tail, that catches insects in flight (part of family Glareolidae).

• PREENING
Actions by which a bird grooms its plumage and maintains it in good condition by use of bill and claws.

• PRIMARY FEATHERS
Long flight feathers on the outer half of the wing.

• PUFFBIRD
A type of stout, loose-plumaged, perching non-passerine with a short, stout bill, that flies out from a perch to seize prey in nearby vegetation (part of Bucconidae).

• QUAIL
A type of small, plump, ground-living **gamebird** with a short tail.

• RACE
Alternative word for **subspecies**.

• RACKET
The expanded and usually rounded tip of a long feather.

• RAIL
A type of compact, long-toed non-passerine of low vegetation, marsh, and waterside (= family Rallidae).

• RAIN FOREST
Evergreen tropical forest that depends on constant rainfall throughout the year.

• RAPTOR
Alternative word for **bird of prey**.

• RATITE
Typically a type of large, flightless, running bird such as an Ostrich, which lacks the projecting keel of the breastbone found in all other birds. The group also includes **tinamous**.

• REDSTART
A type of **chat** with a rufous tail and rump (part of family Turdidae); also refers to certain species of American **warbler** (part of family Parulidae).

• RESIDENT
A bird that normally spends all of its life within a limited area.

• ROBIN
Name often given to a number of passerine species, mostly small; most have a conspicuously orange, red, or pink breast (part of families Turdidae and Eopsaltriidae).

• ROLLER
A type of stout, colorful, big-headed non-passerine with long wings, that typically watches from a perch and swoops to catch prey on the ground. The name describes its acrobatic display flight (= family Coracidae).

• ROOST
(i) To rest or sleep. (ii) A place where birds do this. (iii) A site where many birds roost. Day-flying birds roost by night, nocturnal birds by day.

• RUMP
The lower part of a bird's back, above the tail and underneath the wings when these are closed.

• SALTMARSH
Level areas of coastal marsh where the water is salty.

• SANDGROUSE
A type of short-billed, long-winged non-passerine with feathered legs, that lives on the ground in dry, open landscapes and looks like a **gamebird** (= family Pteroclididae).

• SANDPIPER
A type of gray or brown **shorebird** that usually travels in large flocks. May be large or small (part of family Scolopacidae).

• SAPSUCKER
A type of **woodpecker** that feeds on the sap oozing from rows of holes that it makes in tree trunks, and the insects attracted to it.

• SCALY PATTERN
A plumage pattern produced by the overlapping effect of rounded feathers that have distinct edges, either dark or light.

• SCRAPE
A nest hollow on the ground which a bird makes by pressing its body to the ground, rotating its body, and kicking backward with its feet while doing so.

• SCREAMER
A type of large, South American **waterbird** with big and long-toed but unwebbed feet, a small, curved bill, and loud, far-carrying calls (= family Anhimidae).

• SCRUB
A type of vegetation made up of shrubs or low trees or a mixture of the two, often thickly grown, and frequently including thorns.

• SECONDARY FEATHERS
Medium-length flight feathers situated on the inner wing.

• SECONDARY FOREST
Forest that has recently regrown after the original forest has been cleared; the trees are usually less tall and more uniform in height, and with less variety of species, thus offering a different selection of bird habitats from those in the original (primary) forest.

• SEED-EATER
A type of bird that relies mainly on seed for its diet and usually has a short, stout bill adapted for cracking and removing the husk, to eat the seed inside.

• SHELDUCK
A type of long-legged **duck** that frequently walks on land and feeds typically by dabbling on the surface of mudflats or in shallow water. It is sometimes more like a **goose** in its general behavior.

• SHOREBIRD
A type of non-passerine that often walks or runs on the ground, typically with long legs, wings, and neck, and usually lives at the edge of water. Includes **plovers**, **sandpipers**, and similar birds.

• SHRIKE
A type of small, fierce passerine with a largish head and short, stout, hook-tipped bill that hunts small animals (= family Laniidae).

• SKULKING
Tending to choose to hide in vegetation or other cover whenever the opportunity arises.

• SNAKEBIRD
Alternative word for **darter**.

• SNIPE
A type of **shorebird** of marshy places with a very long, slender bill for probing deeply for food in mud or soft ground.

• SOLITARY
Usually remaining as an isolated individual or pair, rather than joining other birds of its species.

• SONG
A usually elaborate sound that a bird utters for the purpose of advertising itself or in display.

• SONGBIRDS
Used by many writers to refer to passerines.

• SPANGLED
Refers to birds whose plumage is scattered over with conspicuous light marks, usually made up of pale feather tips.

• SPARROW
A type of small, dull-colored passerine with a short, blunt bill for cracking seeds (= family Passeridae, and part of family Emberizidae).

• SPARROWHAWK
A type of small, Old World **hawk** with short, rounded wings, long tail, and long claws, adapted for hunting and eating small birds.

• SPECIES
A group of individuals that are related through a common origin and are capable of freely interbreeding and perpetuating the identity of the group.

• SPINETAIL
A type of small passerine with stiff, spiny tips to the shafts of the tail feathers, that perches; in contrast with the **treecreepers**, spinetails do not use their tails as a support for climbing (part of family Furnariidae).

• SPOONBILL
A type of large wading bird of shallow waters with long legs and a long neck, and a long bill whose tip is broad, flat, and rounded, for filtering food from the water (part of family Threskiornithidae).

• STARLING
A type of slender passerine, usually with a sharp, tapering bill for eating insects and fruit (= family Sturnidae).

• STORK
A type of large bird with long legs and neck and a long, tapering bill. Storks walk on land and wade in shallow water in rivers, lakes, and marshes (= family Ciconiidae).

• STORM-PETREL
A type of small **petrel** with low, fluttering flight (= family Hydrobatidae).

• SUBSPECIES
A geographical subdivision of a **species** in which all birds show certain features that distinguish them from other subspecies.

• SUNBIRD
A type of passerine, usually small and brightly colored, that perches to feed on nectar from flowers, taken with a very slender bill and a fine, tubular tongue (= family Nectariniidae).

• SWALLOW
A type of small passerine with a small bill, a broad mouth, narrow wings, and usually a forked tail, that sits on a perch when resting and feeds by pursuing insects in the air (= family Hirundinidae).

• SWAN
A type of large, usually white, mainly swimming **waterfowl** with a long body, short legs, and a long, slender neck for reaching underwater to pull up waterplants for food.

• SWIFT
A type of aerial non-passerine with long, narrow wings and with a short and very wide mouth, that feeds by catching insects in the air. Swifts have small feet and can only cling to surfaces rather than perching (= family Apodidae).

• TANAGER
A type of passerine, often brightly colored, of trees and bushes, mostly in the tropics. Most have a seed-cracking type of bill, but use it mainly to feed on fruits (part of family Emberizidae).

• TEAL
A type of small, surface-feeding **dabbling duck**.

• TERN
A type of seagoing or inland **waterbird** with narrow, tapering wings, a tapering bill, and usually a forked tail, that swoops down or plunge-dives to seize prey in the water (= family Laridae).

• TERRITORY
An area defended by a bird, pair, or small social group against others, for feeding and often also for nesting, varying in size from the immediate surroundings of an individual bird to several square miles.

• THICK-KNEE
A type of **shorebird**, usually nocturnal, with a large head and large eyes, occurring in open spaces (= family Burhinidae).

• THORNBILL
A type of small, insect-eating passerine, usually with a short, thin bill (= family Acanthizidae).

• THRASHER
A type of thrushlike passerine of low vegetation with a slender bill which it uses to probe among leaves and toss leaf litter aside in search of food (part of family Mimidae).

• THRUSH
A type of small to moderate-size passerine, often ground-dwelling, with a slender bill and often with a melodious song (= family Turdidae).

• TINAMOU
A type of ground-living non-passerine with limited powers of flight, a long neck with a small head, and long, strong legs (= family Tinamidae).

• TIT
A type of small passerine of trees and shrubs, with a small, strong bill and strong feet for acrobatic feeding. Tits are known as **chickadees** in North America (= family Paridae).

• TITMOUSE
Alternative word for **tit**.

• TODY
A type of small, green, rounded, perching non-passerine with a long bill, that flies out from a perch to take insects from the air or foliage (= family Todidae).

• TOUCAN
A type of fruit-eating, perching, forest-dwelling non-passerine

with an enlarged, blunt-tipped bill (= family Rhamphastidae).

• TREE-DUCK
An alternative name for **whistling-duck**.

TREE-SWIFT
A type of aerial non-passerine with a short, very wide mouth, and long wings and tail, feeding on insects caught in the air, and able to perch, rest, and nest in trees (= family Hemiprocnidae).

• TREECREEPER
A type of small passerine with a slender, slightly downcurved bill, that climbs tree trunks and branches, some species using the tail as a support (= families Certhiidae and Climacteridae).

• TROGON
A type of tree-dwelling non-passerine with a compact body, long tail, and round head with a short, wide bill; it flies out from a perch to snatch insects in midair, or to take fruit while hovering (= family Trogonidae).

• TROUPIAL
An alternative name referring either to the **New World blackbirds** in general (= family Icteridae) or to a common species of South American **oriole** that belongs to this family.

• TRUMPETER
A type of forest-dwelling non-passerine, living mainly on the ground, with a longish neck and round head, long, strong legs, and deep calls (= family Psophiidae).

• TUNDRA
A **habitat** consisting of short vegetation, often waterlogged, bordering the polar regions; the underlying soil is frozen in winter, but the surface thaws in summer, allowing some low plant growth.

• TURACO
A type of slender, soft-plumaged non-passerine of trees and shrubs with a long tail, rounded wings, and a short, blunt bill for eating fruit (= family Musophagidae).

• TURKEY-VULTURE
The most common species of **New World vulture**; this name is sometimes used for the family (Cathartidae) as a whole.

• TYRANT FLYCATCHER
A type of **flycatcher** of the Americas (= family Tyrannidae).

• VIREO
A type of small, slender passerine with a short, sturdy bill. Vireos typically hunt insects among the foliage (= family Vireonidae).

• VULTURE
A type of scavenging **bird of prey** feeding on **carrion** and lacking or partly lacking feathers on head and neck (= family Cathartidae and part of family Accipitridae).

• WADER
(i) A British term, in common use until the 1970s, now generally replaced by the North American term **shorebird**. (ii) A North American term for a large, long-legged wading bird such as a **stork**, **heron**, or **spoonbill**.

• WAGTAIL
A type of slender, ground-dwelling passerine with a long tail that is flexed up and down when the bird is active (part of family Motacillidae); also refers to certain similar-looking species of **tyrant** and **monarch flycatcher**.

• WARBLER
A type of insect-eating passerine, often with a frequently used, musical song (families Sylviidae, Parulidae). Also refers to certain species in the **thornbill** family (Acanthizidae).

• WATERBIRD
A bird that is usually found in, on, or near water. This term covers a broad range of bird families.

• WATERFOWL
A type of web-footed **waterbird** of the **duck**, **goose**, and **swan** family (= Anatidae).

• WATTLE
A prominent or pendant patch of bare skin on the head or neck, usually brightly colored and often capable of being enlarged in display.

• WAXBILL
A type of small or very small passerine with a seed-cracking bill that is often bright red or orange (= family Estrildidae).

• WEAVER
A type of small passerine with a seed-cracking bill. Most species weave their nests with strips of fresh plant material (= family Ploceidae).

• WHEATEAR
A type of small, thrushlike bird that lives mainly on the ground and has a conspicuous white **rump** (part of family Turdidae).

• WHISTLER
A type of passerine with a rounded head and strong or hook-tipped bill, and often a loud, musical song (= family Pachycephalidae).

• WHISTLING-DUCK
A type of long-legged and long-necked **duck**, usually gregarious and having noisy, whistling calls, some species resting and nesting in trees.

• WHITE-EYE
A type of tiny passerine living in trees and shrubs, with a small, thin bill and with a white ring of feathers around each eye (= family Zosteropidae).

• WHYDAH
A type of long-tailed **weaver** parasitizing nests of **waxbills**.

• WIDOWBIRD
A type of long-tailed **weaver** that is not a nest parasite. The long, black tail gave rise to the "widow" part of this name.

• WILDFOWL
Another name for **waterfowl**.

• WING BAR
A short, brightly colored or white band on the wing.

• WING STRIPE
A brightly colored band along the extended wing.

• WOODCREEPER
A type of slender-bodied passerine that climbs tree trunks and branches, often supported by its tail; bills vary between species, from slender to strong and from long to short (= family Dendrocolaptidae).

• WOODPECKER
A type of non-passerine that clambers up tree trunks and branches, partly propped up by its tail, with a strong, tapering bill that can make holes in wood (= family Picidae).

• WOODSWALLOW
A type of perching passerine with a large head, short, broad bill, and long wings, that feeds in flocks by chasing insects in the air (= family Artamidae).

• WREN
A type of passerine of low vegetation, often small, normally thin-billed, and usually with an upright tail (= family Troglodytidae); or a similar-looking bird of another family (Acanthisittidae, Maluridae, Acanthizidae).

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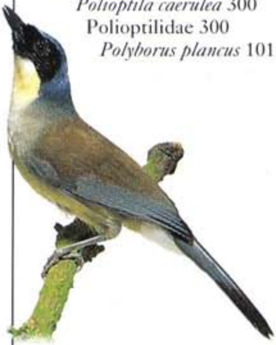

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Colin Harrison

Alan Greensmith

Dr. Colin Harrison has spent over 45 years studying birds. In 1960 he joined the Natural History Museum in London, where he gained his doctorate while studying birds from around the world. The author of several books and over 250 scientific papers, he is an internationally acknowledged authority on the evolution and classification of birds.

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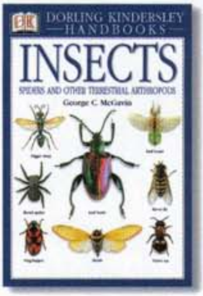
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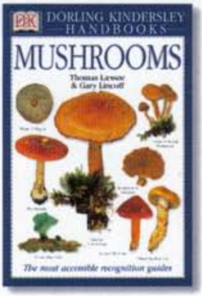
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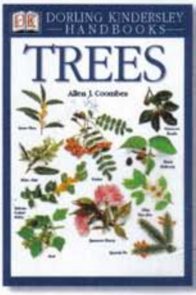
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